MICHIGAN'S LGBT NEWS SOURCE CELEBRATING 20 YEARS

BTL Between THE Lines™

20 Years

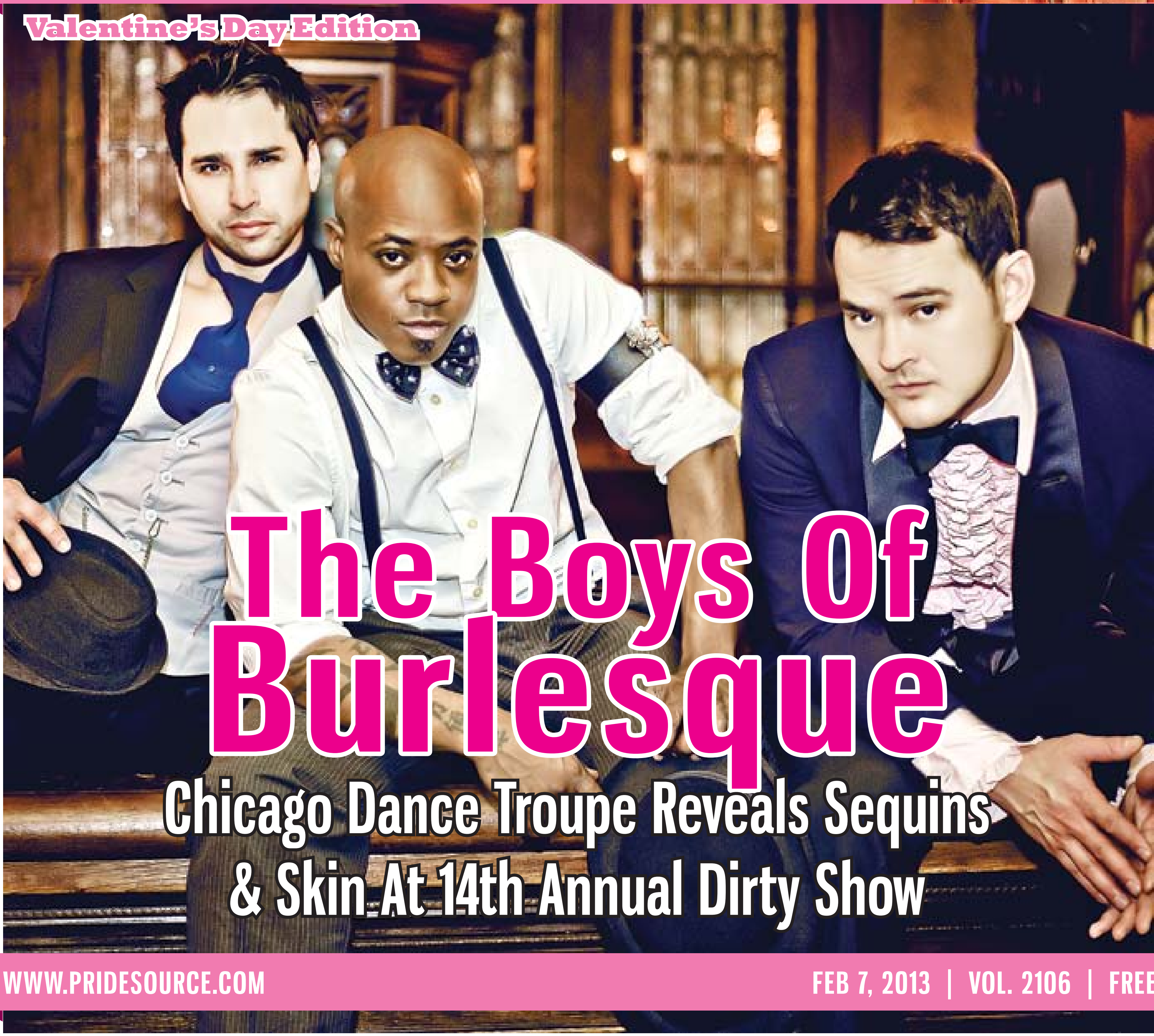
Dave Franco's Gay Exclusive Q&A

Michigan Joins One Billion Rising Feb. 14

"I'm pleased to show young people that their LGBT friends exist at all levels of society."
– Judge Carol Kuhnke



Valentine's Day Edition



The Boys Of Burlesque

Chicago Dance Troupe Reveals Sequins & Skin At 14th Annual Dirty Show

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Photo: Kaylin Idora



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"I know a huge audience is going to think that **I am gay**. I'm just trying to blur the lines, I guess."

– Dave Franco, star of "Warm Bodies," pg. 24



Join The Conversation @ PrideSource.com

ENTER TO WIN



Cabaret 40th Anniversary Blu-ray

Remastered for the first time in over 20 years with new and vintage special features, Liza Minnelli's "Cabaret" is now available in a premium Blu-ray book format containing 40 pages of insightful photos and text from Warner Home Video. Win your copy at Pridesource.com/tickets_contest.html

WEDDING EXPO



RSVP To Win Free Same-Sex Wedding Expo Tickets!

Be one of the first 100 to RSVP to the third annual BTL Same-Sex Wedding Expo, April 7, and get in for free! Simply RSVP at http://GayBe.am/ME and we'll mail you your ticket.

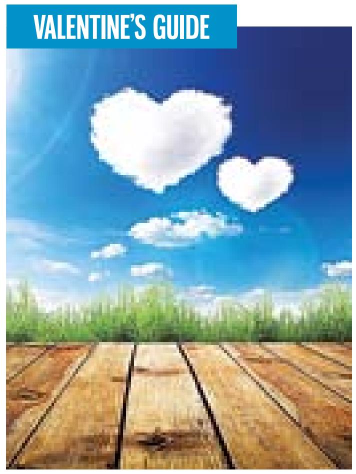
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Like BTL on Facebook today and join thousands of LGBT Michiganders in ongoing conversations on LGBT equality, local businesses, pop culture and entertainment, non-profit news and more. Search for "Between The Lines Newspaper" today!

VALENTINE'S GUIDE



Access the Valentine's Day Guide

Find the Valentine's Day Guide under the "Romance" section of Pridesource.com to access this issue's themed articles as well as tons of unique romance-related content!

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BRIEFS

ROYAL OAK

Human Rights Ordinance Moves Forward Public Comment Period On Until March 4

The Royal Oak City Commission passed a first draft reading of a seven-page human rights ordinance at their meeting on Jan. 28, and is holding a public comment period until the second reading, and vote, takes place on March 4. The ordinance protects citizens from discrimination in housing, employment and public accommodation. The ordinance covers race, religion, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, HIV status and other protected classes. The only dissenting vote in the decision to move forward came from Commissioner David Poulton. BTL wrote about the initial discussion, which came at a Commission meeting in November. To have your voice heard, come to the March 4 meeting and/or contact Royal Oak elected officials through their website at www.ci.royal-oak.mi.us/portal.

WEST BLOOMFIELD

Jewish Gay Network Becomes Committee Of Jewish Community Center

The Jewish Gay Network of Michigan recently announced that the group is now a committee of the Jewish Community Center. JGN Board President Michael J. Phillips thanked Mark Lit, executive director of the JCC, Brian Siegel, president of the JCC, and the executive board of the JCC for accepting the proposal that JGN become a committee of the JCC.

"The JCC has always been very supportive of JGN over the past few years. With this decision, it proves that the JCC is truly an inclusive community center that is safe, supportive and welcoming to everyone who enter its doors. This has been a year-long process. We are overjoyed with this new affiliation and look forward to working with the JCC executive board and staff," said Phillips in an email announcement.

JGN will be moving the office into the Art, Culture and Education Department of the West Bloomfield JCC, under the direction of Shari Lebow. Tracy Agranove will be the part-time staff person.

The public is welcome to attend JGN's next Open Board Meeting on Feb. 20 at 7 p.m. at the West Bloomfield location of the Jewish Community Center. Staff and board will be on hand to answer any questions and discuss the new affiliation. They will also help to facilitate some brainstorming about the future of JGN and the JCC. If you plan to attend organizers request an RSVP to the JGN office by Feb. 18. Call 248-432-5661 or email mphillips@jccdet.org.

ROYAL OAK

Step Inside The Box Gala Coming Up

On Feb. 16 AIDS Walk Detroit will host its annual Step Inside The Box event.

It takes place at the Royal Oak Farmers Market, 316 E. 11 Mile from 7 p.m. - 10 p.m. Tickets are $50 per person and recommended attire is black with a dash of red.

Speciality dishes for local restaurants, complementary bar and entertainment will make this silent auction a must attend event. Purchase tickets online at http://stepinsidethebox2013.eventbrite.com. For more information contact 248-399-9255 or email info@aidswalkdetroit.org.

Extended briefs are available online at:
>> www.PrideSource.com

Elections: Making State History

Shakespeare, Song Welcome Out Judge Carol Kuhnke To 22nd Circuit Court

BY DAWN WOLFE

ANN ARBOR – Feb. 1 may have been cold and blustery on the outside, but inside the Michigan League ballroom there was nothing but warmth and welcome as Carol Kuhnke was sworn in as the state's first openly lesbian elected judge.

More than two hundred people joined Kuhnke's family and dignitaries including newly-elected Supreme Court Justice Bridget Mary McCormack, Michigan Court of Appeals Judge Douglas B. Shapiro, and Washtenaw County Bar Association President Patrick J. Conlin, Esq. to congratulate Kuhnke and take part in her investiture.

There was plenty of praise for Kuhnke – and for the entire Washtenaw County Trial Court – during the ceremony.

According to Judge Shapiro, "Carol is going to be a new addition to what is already the best bench in Michigan. She is soft-spoken but fights hard, she's a critical thinker but not a critical person."

McCormack reflected on her long friendship with Kuhnke, dating back to a golf tournament the two attended together – though neither one actually plays. "I don't think I know a more hard-working, compassionate, or even-handed person," said McCormack of Kuhnke during her remarks. She added that Kunnke is joining a bench where, "Every member … makes people feel heard, respected and informed...I'm so glad my family and neighbors are in such good hands."



Judges Nancy Wheeler, David Swartz, Archie Brown and Donald Shelton look on after Shelton swore in Judge Carol Kuhnke. Kuhnke is assisted by her children, John and Julia, with her robe. BTL photo: Dawn Wolfe

> "I will do all I can in my judicial capacity to make sure that everyone is treated equally under the law. People entering my courtroom will know that they will be treated with respect and dignity, regardless of who they love."
>
> - Judge Carol Kuhnke

In addition to Kuhnke's formal swearing in and the presentation of her robe by her mother Susan and her children Julia and John, the highlight of the ceremony was the remarks made by Ralph G. Williams, PhD, Professor Emeritus of English Language and Literature at the University of Michigan/ Ann Arbor.

Williams recited passages from Henry VI and The Merchant of Venice to illustrate two threats to the law – the threat of those in power trying to twist the law to their own ends, and the danger of a system where people without wealth or power have no access to the law and thus the law becomes a tool of oppression.

In closing, Williams turned to Kuhnke to offer his advice. "The law is general by necessity, but lives are individual," he said. "Where a balance is to be struck, it is best struck on the side of compassion."

Kuhnke's own remarks took a similar tack. After thanking her family and supporters, Kuhnke summed up her own view about the importance of fairness in the court. "What it's really about is what we do for, or to, the people before us," she said.

During a private email interview before and after the ceremony, Kuhnke responded to questions from BTL about the meaning of her election as an openly-lesbian judge – and how sexual minorities can expect to fare in her courtroom.

"I'm very pleased to be able to show young people that their LGBT friends exist at all levels of society and government, and that they need not worry that they can not achieve whatever they wish," she said in a Jan. 31 email.

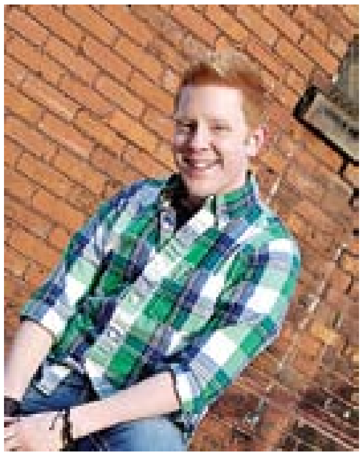
In a separate email on Feb. 2, she added, "I will do all I can in my judicial capacity to make sure that everyone is treated equally under the law. People entering my courtroom will know that they will be treated with respect and dignity, regardless of who they love."

The ceremony closed with the song "Beautiful Dreamer," sung by Roger Chard, Esq.

Gay Man Beaten Outside Muskegon Bar

BTL STAFF REPORT

MUSKEGON – A 29-year-old Muskegon man was beaten unconscious outside of DJ's Pub and Grill on Henry Street in Muskegon early on the morning of Feb. 3 where he had been singing karoke the night before. The attack happened as the bar was closing, and took place in an area of the parking lot without cameras.


Adam Lee Johnson

Reports say that four men attacked Adam Lee Johnson while making comments about his sexual orientation. Days prior to the attack a man had been thrown out of the bar for making derogatory remarks and threats toward Johnson. It is unclear if those incidents are related. Johnson was a regular at the pub.

Johnson was taken by ambulance to the hospital where he was treated for a mild concussion and bruising. Johnson filed a police report Feb. 5. "Went to file a report and they told me that the case had been closed due to lack of information, but reopened due to so many people calling on my behalf! I'm absolutely humbled and grateful for you all. Thank you for your continued support and love. We have some real warriors out there," Johnson wrote on Facebook.

Johnson is committed to being open about the attack. "I want to use every resource I can to bring awareness to this incident and make sure it doesn't happen to someone else," he told Between The Lines.

Muskegon Police have confirmed that a detective has been assigned to the case, and they are looking into if it was a hate crime. The victim has also connected with Equality Michigan, a statewide organization that offers services including reporting, counseling, and victim advocacy for those targeted because of their sexual orientation or gender identity and expression.

LGBT Consumers And Affordable Care Act Forums Coming Up

Reform And Access To Quality, Affordable Healthcare Evaluated

LANSING - Michigan's leading healthcare consumer organization, Michigan Consumers for Healthcare, the Center for American Progress and Equality Michigan will be presenting forums around the state starting this month entitled "The Affordable Care Act and LGBT Consumers: How Healthcare Reform Improves Access to Quality, Affordable Healthcare."

"Healthcare reform is part of a string of incredible advances that LGBT communities have fought for across the United States. But it's really crucial that LGBT consumers understand how these reforms benefit them in particular and how they can get involved to shape LGBT-friendly implementations of the law," said Ryan Sullivan, Policy Lead at MCH.

Eli Isaguirre, Western Michigan Coordinator at MCH, spoke about the importance of explaining this law to all communities.

"The main thing we want people to take away is a better understanding of what health reform actually is. There is so much misinformation out there that people don't know what to believe. Our non-partisan approach to educating people about the Affordable Care Act gives them the best opportunity to cut through partisan rhetoric and truly have a better understanding of the law," said Isaguirre.

Upcoming Forums

Oakland University, Gold Room C, Oakland Center, Feb. 11 at 2 p.m.

Eastern Michigan University, 350 Student Center, Feb. 12 at 3:30

University of Michigan, 1230 Weill Hall (School of Public Policy) Feb. 12 at 7 p.m.

For more information visit http://consumersforhealthcare.org/events or www.facebook.com/consumersforhealthcare/events

One Billion Rising Events Around Michigan Join World To Stand Up Against Violence

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

Women around the world are taking a stand against violence Feb. 14 as part of One Billion Rising. OBR is part of V-Day, a movement that Eve Ensler began 15 years ago to end violence against women. Ensler is the creator of The Vagina Monologues. Women, and men, are fed up with the violence that is still a normalized part of society. As the OBR website points out, one in three women on the planet will be raped or beaten in her lifetime. The movement calls for people rise up, speak out, and even to dance in support of a safer world for women and girls.

In Michigan there are several events taking place, including ones in Flint, Warren and Bay City.

U of M – Flint

Jen Salamone, project coordinator of the LGBT Center/Women's Educational Center (WEC) at the University of Michigan-Flint, is planning the event that is taking place at the college.

"OBR is a movement to show the world that violence against women and girls is the central issue of our time and will no longer be tolerated," Salamone said. "We are involved because it is central to our departmental mission and we are committed to raising awareness about violence against women globally and demanding an end to violence against women and girls around the world."

WEC is a department at the University of Michigan-Flint that works to support women (students, faculty, and staff) as they fulfill their educational and career goals. WEC works to raise awareness about women's issues, monitors the status of women on campus and advocates for practices and policies that promote equal participation. WEC also advocates for individuals of all genders working together to challenge attitudes and social constructs that promote unequal treatment based on gender, race, sexual orientation, etc.

Each OBR event is unique, and at U of M – Flint, Salamone and others will be initiating flash mobs throughout the day in various places on campus to bring attention to the cause of safety and equality. They are also hosting a presentation of The Vagina Monologues on March 20 in the KIVA on campus, which Salamone is directing. To sign up for Flash Mob updates, go to http://onebillionrising.org/page/event/detail/startarising/wrsf.

> *"Liberation, empowerment and joy are what this rising is all about."*
>
> – JodiAnn Stevenson, Local Organizer

Detroit Rises – Warren

Deborah Garrett is the creative team leader behind Detroit Rises, a group that will have several events to show solidarity with the women's movement.

"I have been involved with V-Day, Turning Point, and serving survivors since 2005. It's a cause that is very near and dear to me. I think if you judged a species on how it treats its women and children, we'd be in trouble," Garrett said. She noted that it was event founder Eve Ensler and the V-Day organization that came to Michigan in 2012 to attract a crowd of over 5,000 people to the capitol after State Rep. Lisa Brown was banned from speaking on the House Floor after using the word "vagina" in a discussion about abortion legislation.

The day-long series of events takes place at The Recovery Room, 13330 E. 10 Mile Rd. in Warren. There will be a Karaoke pajama dance party, a disco dance party, a drum circle, spoken word artists and, lastly, two presentations of The Vagina Monologues. Suggested donations for each event is $10, with the money benefiting Turning Point Inc. in Macomb County and SASHA Center in Detroit. For more information visit www.detroitrises.org.



JodiAnn Stevenson

Delta Day of Dance – Bay City

The Delta Day of Dance will take place on the Campus of Delta College in Bay City. With a focus on dance as an uplifting and uniting act, there will be several events throughout the day, including a West African dance class, a hip hop class, a dance party, hustle-robics and student dance performances. They will also hold a wii dance tournament, and end the day with a retro prom.

"West African dance classes are rare in Michigan. We are offering one for free that day at 2 p.m., after the noon West African Dance performance," said JodiAnn Stevenson who is an organizer as well as an assistant English professor at the school. "I chose to spotlight West African Dance because I had the opportunity to try some while staying in Brooklyn for a few months several years ago and found it to be the most liberating, empowering, joyous dances I have ever tried. Liberation, empowerment and joy are what this rising is all about."

The events are supported financially by the Delta Global Awareness Program, the Black History Month Committee, several student run clubs and private community donors. Representatives from local area women's shelters will be on hand all day to keep the reason for the dancing front and center in everyone's minds. Donations to the shelters will be accepted.

To search for other events, visit http://onebillionrising.org/ and enter your zip code.

Schuette Joins Suits To Restrict Women's Health Care

BY CRYSTAL PROXMIRE

ANN ARBOR - Tom Monaghan, owner of the property management company Domino's Farms, does not want his employees to have access to birth control through their health insurance, and State Attorney General Bill Schuette has stepped up to help him win an injunction to allow him to avoid new federal healthcare mandates that require employers to offer contraceptive coverage.

On Dec. 27 a Federal judge awarded an injunction stalling any penalties that Monaghan would have to face as a result of not complying with the "Obamacare" health acts. Schuette filed a brief in support of Monaghan's claim that requiring employers to offer health insurance with birth control violates religious freedom.

The ACA has a provision that went into effect on Jan. 1, 2013 that requires all companies with over 50 employees to comply with the ACA or be subject to financial penalties. The temporary injunction delays those penalties while the trial goes on. It might also be used by other non-compliant businesses as a way to delay their implementation of women's health coverage requirements.

Federal District Court Judge Lawrence P. Zatkoff granted the injunction, writing that Monaghan "has shown that abiding by the mandate will substantially burden his exercise of religion."

This is not the first injunction in Michigan that was supported by Schuette. On Oct. 31, U.S. District Court Judge Robert Cleland, in the Eastern District of Michigan, issued an injunction that temporarily allows the owners of Michigan-based Weingartz Supply Company to deny contraceptive coverage in their health plans because they claim it violates their Catholic faith.

Weingartz Supply Company is an outdoor power equipment business where "equipment experts don't wear aprons," with locations in Utica, Ann Arbor, Farmington Hills and Cedar Springs. The family-owned business began in 1945, and according to court documents has only offered medical plans that do not include contraception. Weingartz partnered with a Catholic business owners association called Legatus, which was founded by Monaghan.

In Nov. 2012, Schuette joined a lawsuit by Grand Rapids CEO John Kennedy of Autocam and Autocam Medical to avoid having to provide contraception coverage. In that case, Jacek Pruski, a U.S. Department of Justice trial attorney, wrote in response to the lawsuit, "Indeed, women who receive their health coverage through corporations like Autocam would be subject to negative health and employment outcomes because they had obtained employment with a company that imposes its owners' religious beliefs on their health care needs," according to the MLive story about the suit. (http://www.mlive.com/news/grand-rapids/index.ssf/2012/11/schuette_backs_west_michigan_c.html) In this case the suit was already filed when Schuette stepped in and asked to submit his own brief on the matter.

The Domino's Farm case has raised the eyebrows of the Michigan Democratic Party in particular, because in this instance Domino's Farms owner, Thomas Monaghan, contributed $2,400 to Schuette's campaign in 2010.

"Schuette is once again on duty for big corporations, and in this case he's actually using taxpayer dollars to help out a campaign donor," said Michigan Democratic Party Chair Mark Brewer. "On top of all that, Schuette is wasting our tax dollars in an effort to deny women access to essential health care services. Corporations shouldn't be allowed to prevent parents from deciding when and how many kids to have, and Schuette shouldn't be using state resources to campaign for the Tea Party vote."

Monaghan is best known as the founder of Domino's Pizza, although he no longer owns the chain. In the 1980s it was sold to Bain Capital, who controlled it until it went public in 2004. Domino's Farms is a real-estate management company run by Monaghan.

> *"Schuette is once again on duty for big corporations, and in this case he's actually using taxpayer dollars to help out a campaign donor."*
>
> – Mark Brewer, Michigan Democratic Party Chair

A Testimonial For Creating Change



Viewpoint

OPINION BY RICHARD A. YANCY

> *We have control over molding our character; and to create a better you there needs to be positive affirmations of yourself on a daily basis. It is time to empower your sexual identity, your family life, the community you live in, and the organizations you work for.*

Change can be defined in many ways, and the word change is often used in light of positive transformation. However, the word change does not only identify a positive outcome, change can have a negative or positive impact on any situation. In every aspect of life we are constantly experiencing change, and the only way not to feel the effects of change is to be frozen in time and exist only in that moment. Nevertheless, we do not have the power to stop time, but we do have the power to provoke meaningful change. Whether it is intentional change or not, there will be change, and we are all impacted by the good or bad effects it has on our lives.

I attended the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Conference for Equality, Creating Change held in Atlanta Jan. 23-27. The conference inspired a deep passion for growth through intentional living, by using proven tools and steps to create positive and lasting results. The conference hosted many affirming and nurturing workshops, centered on having pride in your sexual identity, your race and your religious beliefs.

The Creating Change conference fostered healthy conversation in a free from judgment space, to nurture the environment of self-expression; that opened the door for the birthing new inspirations. There were many messages of affirmation along the way that rekindled excitement for learning and knowledge, giving me the tools to identify me strengths and helping me to identify and alter the things that could be holding me back from success.

There was a core theme in the Creating Change conference that held everything together: it was the revelation of self-responsibility for creating change. When we are intentional about empowering ourselves, change comes in the form of meaningful relationships, a healthy life, an affirming organization, or a loving community. We all have the responsibility to hold ourselves to the highest accountability for our actions. This may sound strange to some, but we are also accountable for not taking actions as well. We all have a perspective on things that are holding us back from greatness. Most people spend their time hiding from change and fighting to stay in their comfort-zone, but a comfort-zone is another word for fear or the willingness to sustain mediocrity.

Regardless of the excuses you have given yourself to remain in your comfort-zone, you are still cheating change; by changing every good opportunity for personal growth into a default failure. That's right, how many of your potential successes have you turned into failures? Here is a question for you: are you viewing and assessing every opportunity in your every daily life with the power to create positive change? If the answer is yes, you should have successes that are measurable. If the answer is maybe, it's more than likely you have past opportunities for cheating change.

To create change in yourself, you have to be intentional about growth. Start by creating a positive image of yourself; and don't be hesitant about hyping that image up to the magnificent role of king or queen, or even the master of the universe. But reminder, a good character reflects a loving nature, kindness, gentleness and fairness among many more great attributes. Inside each of us is an identity that we continually affirm to ourselves through our thoughts.

And here is the truth; we have control over molding our character; and to create a better you there needs to be positive affirmations of yourself on a daily basis. It is time to empower your sexual identity, your family life, the community you live in, and the organizations you work for, because if not, you will never reach your full potential. Growth will come after you first acknowledge your accountability to create opportunities and start creating change.

Richard A. Yancy is the executive assistant at KICK The Agency for LGBT African Americans.



Re: Boy Scouts of America's Gay Ban

"The Boy Scouts of America have heard from scouts, corporations and millions of Americans that banning gay scouts and scout leaders is wrong. The BSA will continue to hear from these advocates until discrimination against dedicated gay scouts is a thing of the past. Scouting is a valuable institution and this change will only strengthen its core principles of fairness and respect."

– Herndon Graddick, GLAAD President

"In seven months, we've built an organization comprised of thousands of alumni Eagle Scouts, as well as current Scouts and Scoutmasters, who are all very concerned about the future health of an organization we cherish – the Boy Scouts of America. We believe that this policy change must be enacted as a mitigated solution toward the final goal of ending discrimination throughout all of Scouting, lest the program be isolated on the fringe of our society. As America embraces universal equality, so should the Boy Scouts of America."

–Brad Hankins,
Campaign Director for Scouts for Equality

"My attitude is that gays and lesbians should have access and opportunities, the same way as everyone else does, in every institution and walk of life. And you know the Scouts are a great institution, that are promoting young people and exposing them to opportunities and leadership that will serve people for the rest of their lives. And I think nobody should be barred from that."

–President Barack Obama

West Horror Baptist Revenge



Parting Glances

OPINION BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

I'm not a fan of zombie or vampire movies, but I had occasion – I think it was Halloween, or, Feast of the Circumcision – one of the two of those ghoulish dates – to sneak preview a soon-to-be-released flick, "The West Horror Baptist Walking Dead."

What's interesting about this low-budget, PG-13 picture is that it's 3-D, has sing-along subtitles, poppet crucifixes for viewing audience protection, red, white, and blue blessed wafers provided for throwing at the screen. You're right: "Rocky Horror Show Revisited"! The sneak preview I attended was an hour before Saturday midnight, timed so that the actual on-screen horror spilled – if that's a salivating choice of descriptive word – over into Sunday, Bloody, Sunday.

Just in case you're a concerned PG reader with lingering Southern Baptist sensitivities, good as it always does, triumphs over evil. (There were, some religious zealots carrying signs picketing the movie. "God Hates PG 13!" "Are You Washed in the 3D Blood of the Lamb?")

The theater was packed at the sneak preview. (Word quickly got around by way of Grindr and Tumblr that "West Horror" was highlighted with a few body building zombies and one or two athletic, if anemic looking, vampires – a concession to anticipated gay viewers.)

The movie plot's somewhat confusing, if not downright schizoid, about a small church – sort of a quirk in the outback hills – where born-again vampires are hellbent on converting unsaved zombies to help them seduce a colony of lipstick lesbians who camp out nearby each summer.

The head vampire, who happens also to be a 1000-year-old ex-Gay therapist, goes by the name of Count Dragula occasionally crossdresses when enticing zombies to do his bidding. He also has a penchant for getting media coverage, but only on the late, late Fox CNN news, and before dawn breaks.

The Count is surrounded by a cohort of seemingly virginal looking, former D.A.R. (Daughters of the American Revolution) types who shout out enticing biblical verses at Pride Parades when not singing deep contralto in the West Horror choir, or lurking in unlocked cemeteries at night.

If there's a fault with the movie's veracity – although seeing West Horror creepy crawlies in 3D is, well, a night owl hoot and really scary – it's the fact that there are lipstick lesbians in this horror film. I mean that's a little farfetched. But it does make for a refreshing contrast to the church's pachydermal vestal virgins.

It's never good reviewing policy to reveal a film's ending, but, I'm sure most of PG readers are a little ahead of the game on this one. But let's also say that it's LGBT great that the day is finally saved, and by that I mean the lives of the gorgeous lipstick lesbians camping nearby.

Oh, well. What the PG 13, 3-D moviegoing hell! Apparently Count Dragula in a deranged nocturnal state, by chance makes an untoward pass at a lipstick lesbian, Episcopalian couple toasting marshmallows at a camp fire. Zowie! Powie! Revenge is sweet. And swift.

"The West Horror Baptist Walking Dead" ends with a posse of Dykes on Bikes beating the tarnation out of Count Dragula, vampires, zombies, and would-be, mouthy D.A.R. crones. (Five wooden stakes out of five.)

Charles@pridesource.com

Creep of the Week

Aaron Klein

OPINION BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

All together now: "If I knew you were coming I'd have baked a cake. Unless you're gay, unless you're gay..."

That's the theme song of Sweet Cakes bakery in Gresham, Oregon who will not make you a wedding cake if you're getting gay married because: Jesus.

Granted, their website states three separate times that Sweet Cakes makes cakes "for ANY occasion." Just not gay occasions, apparently.

On Jan. 17 Sweet Cakes owner Aaron Klein told a potential lesbian customer that his business was not interested in her lesbian money and would not make a lesbian cake for her lesbian wedding. According to news reports, the lesbian's heterosexual mother had gotten her own hetero wedding cake there for her hetero wedding. It's the kind of referral many business owners would be happy to have.

On Jan. 17 Sweet Cakes owner Aaron Klein told a potential lesbian customer that his business was not interested in her lesbian money and would not make a lesbian cake for her lesbian wedding.

But not Klein who, according to him, told the ladies he was sorry for wasting their time, or according to the ladies, told them they were "abominations unto the lord."

Either way, he refused their business solely because they were gay. (Although, in the bakery's defense, their homepage says, "NO BOX CAKES!" which could be interpreted as anti-lesbian).

And so the couple filed a complaint with the state attorney general's office because Oregon, unlike many states, includes sexual orientation in their non-discrimination law, which says a business can't deny "full and equal accommodations" to people just because the owner thinks God is telling him to.

"I believe marriage is a religious institution between a man and woman as stated in the Bible," Klein told The Oregonian. "When someone tells me that their definition is something different, I strongly disagree. I don't think I should be penalized for that."

That's how laws work, right? We pick and choose the ones we want and don't want to follow according to what we "strongly disagree" with? Which means since I strongly disagree with the law against marriage equality in my home state of Michigan, I can totally just abracadabra be legally married to my wife because I said so.

Not surprisingly, Klein's refusal and the resulting legal action has received a lot of outrage both in favor of the baker and in favor of the lesbian couple. People are all, "Just go to a different bakery." And, "I'm going to buy and eat all the Sweet Cakes cupcakes I can fit into my gay-hating mouth." And, "You show 'em, ladies! Stick it to the homophobes."

It's true that there are plenty of bakeries in Oregon who'd happily bake lesbians a cake as fast as they can. It's also true that Klein is entitled to his opinion. But he isn't entitled to break the law and discriminate based on sexual orientation, just like he isn't entitled to refuse to make a cake for a Bat Mitzvah because he believes the Jews killed Jesus or something.

And don't try telling me it's not the same thing, as if one is just exercising your first amendment rights and the other is "real" discrimination. To make that claim is to devalue gay and lesbian people and sanction the discrimination they face.

During a TV news interview Klein told the reporter that he'd rather go out of business than make cakes for same-sex weddings. That certainly is his choice to make. And in a state with just laws, that is a chance a business owner who discriminates against gays and lesbians should have to face. Discrimination should have consequences.

As for the Sweet Cakes supporters who are devouring pastries in a show of anti-gay solidarity, I could've sworn the Bible said something about gluttony.

Looking Up In Detroit: Man In The City Brings Art To Skyline, Kids

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE





Above: Artist John Sauve. Photo by Doug Clark. Below: One of the 30 sculptures atop buildings in downtown Detroit. Photo by Emma Suave.

DETROIT – If you've looked up in downtown Detroit lately you've probably noticed large, male figures atop a number of buildings, looking out, over and down upon the city. Currently the Man in the City Project has 30 large sculptures placed on the tops of buildings throughout Detroit. The large, colorful figures are an urban art project started by John Sauve to engage youth, raise awareness and raise money for a worthy cause.

Sauve has always known about the value of art in terms of livening up public spaces and as a form of personal and cultural expression. But the idea of art as a way to change the lives of young people took a whole new form when he visited the Harvey Milk High School, part of the Hetrick-Martin Institute in New York City in 2010. There he met homeless LGBT youth who were living out of their lockers at school.

"You see these kids and they are so strong. I wanted to help, to give them something beyond the basics. I started the Man in the City Project to teach kids about art. But it teaches so much more than that. It shows them they can do a project from beginning to end. They can visualize something, plan it and see it through," Sauve said. "It takes kids from a concept to a finished project that entails a kid learning transferable skills and goal setting."

He explained the value of art to uplift people no matter their situation, and he turned his concern into a two week program where homeless and at-risk youth started with a blank sculpture and transformed it into their own creation. The artwork was then used by the City of New York for their Highline Park, giving the youth yet another reason to feel pride and value. The subject matter itself, a simple yet powerful male form forged in confidently bright orange, gives students a reason to think about what their identity means to them. Who are they? What do they project to the world? Where do they fit in?

He described the added effects by saying, "Aside from raising awareness for art education, The Man in the City Project activates the skyline and encourages people to look around. In this process of looking and finding, one re-assesses one's own position in the world and becomes aware of one's scale within the very fabric of the city. The Man in the City Project creates a metaphor for urban life and all the contradictory associations – alienation, ambition, anonymity and fame."

In Michigan the Man in the City Project has grown tremendously. There are fundraisers to be held at several of the locations where the statutes are found, and the money raised will help fund classes for youth at the Carr Center in Detroit.

The first fundraiser will be at University of Detroit, 1427 Randolph Feb. 7 at 6 p.m. and will support the children's Music Program at the Carr Center. The event will feature music by Jennifer Westwood, Cha Cha Kitty, and Pru and Schu. Classic concert poster artist Gary Grimshaw has also stepped up to help the cause, and will have posters available for sale at the event.

Future fundraisers include The Scarab Club, Pioneer Building, Salt and Cedar, Atwater Brewing Company, YMCA, Opera House, Music Hall and The Majestic.

To see where the 30 large sculptures are placed, check out the Google Map at https://maps.google.com/maps/ms?msid=215419939991082565629.0004c8cc061915e1fb218&msa=0.

For more information and updates on future fundraisers check out http://sauveartfoundation.org/education/man-in-the-city-detroit.html

Bullying Study: It Does Get Better For Gay Teens

BY LINDSEY TANNER

CHICAGO (AP) – It really does get better for gay and bisexual teens when it comes to being bullied, although young gay men have it worse than their lesbian peers, according to the first long-term scientific evidence on how the problem changes over time.

The seven-year study involved more than 4,000 teens in England who were questioned yearly through 2010, until they were 19 and 20 years old. At the start, just over half of the 187 gay, lesbian and bisexual teens said they had been bullied; by 2010 that dropped to 9 percent of gay and bisexual boys and 6 percent of lesbian and bisexual girls.

The researchers said the same results likely would be found in the United States.

In both countries, a "sea change" in cultural acceptance of gays and growing intolerance for bullying occurred during the study years, which partly explains the results, said study co-author Ian Rivers, a psychologist and professor of human development at Brunel University in London.

That includes a government mandate in England that schools work to prevent bullying, and changes in the United States permitting same-sex marriage in several states.

In 2010, syndicated columnist Dan Savage launched the "It Gets Better" video project to encourage bullied gay teens. It was prompted by widely publicized suicides of young gays, and includes videos from politicians and celebrities.

"Bullying tends to decline with age regardless of sexual orientation and gender," and the study confirms that, said co-author Joseph Robinson, a researcher and assistant professor of educational psychology at the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign. "In absolute terms, this would suggest that yes, it gets better."

The study appears online Monday in the journal Pediatrics.

Eliza Byard, executive director of the Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network, said the results mirror surveys by her anti-bullying advocacy group that show bullying is more common in U.S. middle schools than in high schools.

But the researchers said their results show the situation is more nuanced for young gay men.

In the first years of the study, gay boys and girls were almost twice as likely to be bullied as their straight peers. By the last year, bullying dropped overall and was at about the same level for lesbians and straight girls. But the difference between men got worse by ages 19 and 20, with gay young men almost four times more likely than their straight peers to be bullied.

The mixed results for young gay men may reflect the fact that masculine tendencies in girls and women are more culturally acceptable than femininity in boys and men, Robinson said.

"A lot of the disgust that people feel when you bring up homosexuality ... centers around gay male sexuality," Savage said. "There's more of a comfort level" around gay women, he said.

Kendall Johnson, 21, a junior theater major at the University of Illinois, said he was bullied for being gay in high school, mostly when he brought boyfriends to school dances or football games.

"One year at prom, I had a guy tell us that we were disgusting and he didn't want to see us dancing anymore," Johnson said. A football player and the president of the drama club intervened on his behalf, he recalled.

Johnson hasn't been bullied in college, but he said that's partly because he hangs out with the theater crowd and avoids the fraternity scene. Still, he agreed, that it generally gets better for gays as they mature.

"As you grow older, you become more accepting of yourself," Johnson said.

LGBT Groups Still Split On Hagel

Defense Nominee Commits To Equality For LGBT Soldiers Before First Senate Vote

BY LISA KEEN

The LGBT community's position on Chuck Hagel as Defense Secretary remains quietly split as Hagel approaches his first key Senate vote, perhaps as early as Feb.7.

No LGBT organization, not even the Human Rights Campaign or OutServe-SLDN, has met with or affirmatively endorsed President Obama's nominee, and only a few have actively opposed him. OutServe, the national organization representing LGBT servicemembers, said it's had an "open line of communication with the White House and Hagel's team throughout the confirmation process," but has taken no official position on the confirmation other than to say it is "encouraged" by his remarks and "comfortable" with his nomination.

High-profile LGBT political commentators are divided. Rachel Maddow of MSNBC and Richard Socarides of The New Yorker have voiced significant concerns, but many other high-placed openly gay political players have expressed their unqualified support for the man who, as Senator from Nebraska, voted against the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, against including sexual orientation in the hate crimes prevention act, for a federal constitutional amendment to ban marriage for same-sex couples, and would not sign a pledge not to discriminate against gays in his own Senate office, according to HRC records.

Socarides, who said in his Jan. 7 New Yorker piece that he hoped Hagel would explain his conversion from gay civil rights opponent to defender during his confirmation hearings, said Tuesday that he still harbors reservations about the nominee.

"For me, always, the most important question has been whether he would issue a non-discrimination directive" to the Department of Defense," said Socarides. "…We got them from all other departments and agencies and [the Office of Personnel Management], but we need a non-discrimination order that covers the uniformed military and haven't been able to get it and that seems to be the question to be asked and answered and it was not, in any public forum. I think that, while he may have spoken to some of the other issues hanging over his nomination and may have done some of this on LGBT issues in private [meetings with senators], I still have a lot of unanswered questions."

Hagel said at his confirmation hearing Jan. 31 that he would protect the right of same-sex couples to use military chapels for their marriage ceremonies, but would not require military chaplains perform such ceremonies if they were morally opposed to such marriages.

It was Senator Mark Udall (D-Colo.) who pressed Hagel on whether he would ensure him that a military policy in the 2013 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) - which requires the military to "accommodate" the moral and religious beliefs of all servicemembers - would not be used to discriminate against gay, lesbian, and bisexual service members.

"Absolutely," said Hagel. "I will faithfully, diligently, enforce our laws. All men and women deserve the same rights. And I can assure you that will be a high priority… to enforce that and ensure that in every way, through the entire line of, chain of command and accountability."



No LGBT organization, not even the Human Rights Campaign, has met with or affirmatively endorsed President Obama's nominee, and only a few have actively opposed him.

Senator Roger Wicker (R-Miss.), whose turn to ask questions came right after Udall, followed up asking whether Hagel's response meant military chaplains would have to perform a marriage ceremony for a same-sex couple.

"Well, I think that Pentagon regulations show that same-sex marriage is legal in nine states," said Hagel, starting to answer the question.

"No," interrupted Wicker, rephrasing his question. "Would a chaplain be able to bow out of a procedure like that based on conscience?" asked Wicker.

"Certainly," said Hagel, "but what we don't want, though, is – to Senator Udall's point — is someone to be denied to be married in a chapel or facility."

Senator Kristen Gillibrand (D-NY) asked a question dealing with a variety of issues, including sexual assaults against women in the military and benefits for gay servicemembers.

"We've repealed Don't Ask, Don't Tell," said Gillibrand, "but it's difficult for a military spouse to even go to the commissary and be on base and be notified if a spouse is killed in action. I will need a strong commitment from you that you will treat our military families as you would your own [and be] concerned about every man and woman in the military…."

"You have my complete commitment on that," said Hagel, adding that he had made that commitment to all members of the committee with whom he had met.

In fact, Hagel had already made the commitment to Gillibrand when they met the previous week. Gillibrand issued a statement Jan. 24 saying, "Senator Hagel gave me his clear and direct commitment to advancing issues of equality and fairness in our armed forces – from fully implementing the repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," to providing full benefits to families of LGBT servicemembers, ensuring that women servicemembers have access to the full range of reproductive care, cracking down on sexual abuse in the military, stopping hazing, and implementing the opening of full combat roles to female servicemembers."

But to the extent members of the Senate Armed Services Committee really grilled Hagel on his positions concerning gays in the military, most of that action took place on paper, prior to the hearing.

DADT According to Hagel

In questions posed to Hagel prior to the hearing, Committee members asked Hagel to describe his view of the repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell." DADT was the law passed by Congress in 1993 (four years before Hagel entered the Senate) and banned gay members of the service from being open about their sexual orientation. Congress, in 2010, voted to repeal that law (after Hagel was no longer in the Senate) and the repeal law took effect in September 2011. Hagel's view of the repeal sounded very much as he has described it recently in public.

"I fully support the repeal of 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' and value the service of all those who fight for our country. I fully support gay and lesbian men and women serving openly in the U.S. military and am committed to a full implementation of the repeal of 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell,' responded Hagel.

The Committee members also asked Hagel to give them his "assessment of the implementation" of the repeal of DADT.

"I understand that the senior military leadership have engaged in a year-long monitoring process and found that repeal of 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' has not had any impacts on readiness, effectiveness, unit cohesion, recruiting, and retention. At the same time," wrote Hagel, "I realize that there is still some work to be done to achieve the full implementation of repeal, particularly with regard to the benefits available to the families of gay and lesbian service members."

Even though Hagel is not yet Defense Secretary, the Committee asked him to state the "status of the report of the benefits review group and when it is expected to issue its report." Hagel said it was his understanding that there is not a "report, per se" but rather that the Defense Department is "assembling detailed information on individual benefits (including whether each such benefit might be made available under current law, and options for how to do so) to support decision making by the senior civilian and military leadership of the Department, and also that those decisions are currently under active consideration."

"If confirmed," said Hagel in writing, "I will review the work that has been undertaken during the course of the benefits review and will work closely with the Department of Defense civilian and military leadership to move forward expeditiously on this issue." And he said he "will inform the appropriate Congressional committees of decisions as they are made."

In response to a question about providing benefits to the same-sex partners of military service members, Hagel reiterated an earlier public statement that he "will do everything possible to the extent permissible under current law to provide equal benefits to the families of all our servicemembers."

OutServe-Servicemembers Legal Defense Network Executive Director Allyson Robinson issued a statement praising Hagel's response on benefits for gay servicemembers, saying, "it is gratifying to see Senator Hagel show the kind of clear, unambiguous support for our service members and their families we saw today."

"It is an historic day when issues critical to gay and lesbian service members and their families take center stage in a confirmation hearing for Secretary of Defense," said Robinson.

OutServe-SLDN and other LGBT groups have criticized the Pentagon for delays in implementing policies and regulations to fully repeal the effects of DADT on gay servicemembers, particularly around extension of benefits to gay servicemembers' families.

Senator Tammy Baldwin (D-Wisc.), the senate's newly elected lesbian member, has not yet stated publicly whether she will support Hagel's confirmation but Senator Carl Levin (D-Mich.), who chairs the Armed Services Committee predicted all 55 of the Senate's Democratic members would. Levin's committee is expected to vote as early as Feb. 7 on the confirmation.

The Boys Of Burlesque

VALENTINE'S GUIDE

Chicago Dance Troupe Reveals Sequins & Skin At 14th Annual Dirty Show

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI



Bazuka Joe, Jett Adore and Ray Gunn of Stage Door Johnnies. Photo: Kaylin Idora

A half-gay burlesque act is coming to town – but without Cher, Christina Aguilera and a really awful script. Bazuka joe, Jett Adore and Ray Gunn are the fine-looking guys of Stage Door Johnnies, a Chicago dance troupe who will perform Feb. 8, 9, 15 and 16 at Dirty Show 14. Expect special guest drag queen Roxi D'Lite, acrobatic pole-dancing and lots of rhinestones when the burlesque men perform at the annual international erotic art exhibit. Will it be anything like Cher's "Burlesque"?

Bazuka laughs. "Not at all," he says when we get him on the phone. "A lot of burlesque, especially if you talk to anyone from its heyday, is the tease element. The movie just didn't capture any of that essence."

But you can bet these boys will capture that – and a lot of curious eyes – when they roll into town.

Go-go? No, no

People either think we're drag queens or go-go boys. Lots of times, what we'll try to do is liken it to something. Like, "Have you ever seen 'Gypsy'?" "Do you know who Bettie Page is?" A lot of people these days don't know these references; we're constantly surprised.

It's striptease but it's really theatrical, so it's way more involved than Chippendales, but it's not as big and makeup-y as drag performing. We still, to this day, haven't found a really good way to describe burlesque, because it is a little bit like Chippendales. We're guys taking our clothes off. And it is a little bit like drag queens because we wear elaborate costumes, but we're not dressing up as girls.

The history of male burlesque

There were guys in and around the scene, but they were really subversive. It was really underground. Way more so than it is now. People just didn't talk about it. Also, at that time, female burlesque performers were almost like superstars. Legends will tell you about having dated Dean Martin and hanging out with Marilyn Monroe and Carol Channing. Then burlesque died out for 20, 30 years, and it's just now starting to see a revival. It's really cool seeing more and more guys getting into it. It's evolved a lot since that time.

Fast fame

It's been three years going on four. We think about that a lot, because a lot of performers have done this for years and years and have not had the same opportunities that we've had. So we're very grateful. We've all been formally dance-trained and theater-trained, so there is a lot of schooling and work behind what we do – but as far as being in the burlesque scene itself, we're relative newbies and got pretty far pretty fast.

INFO

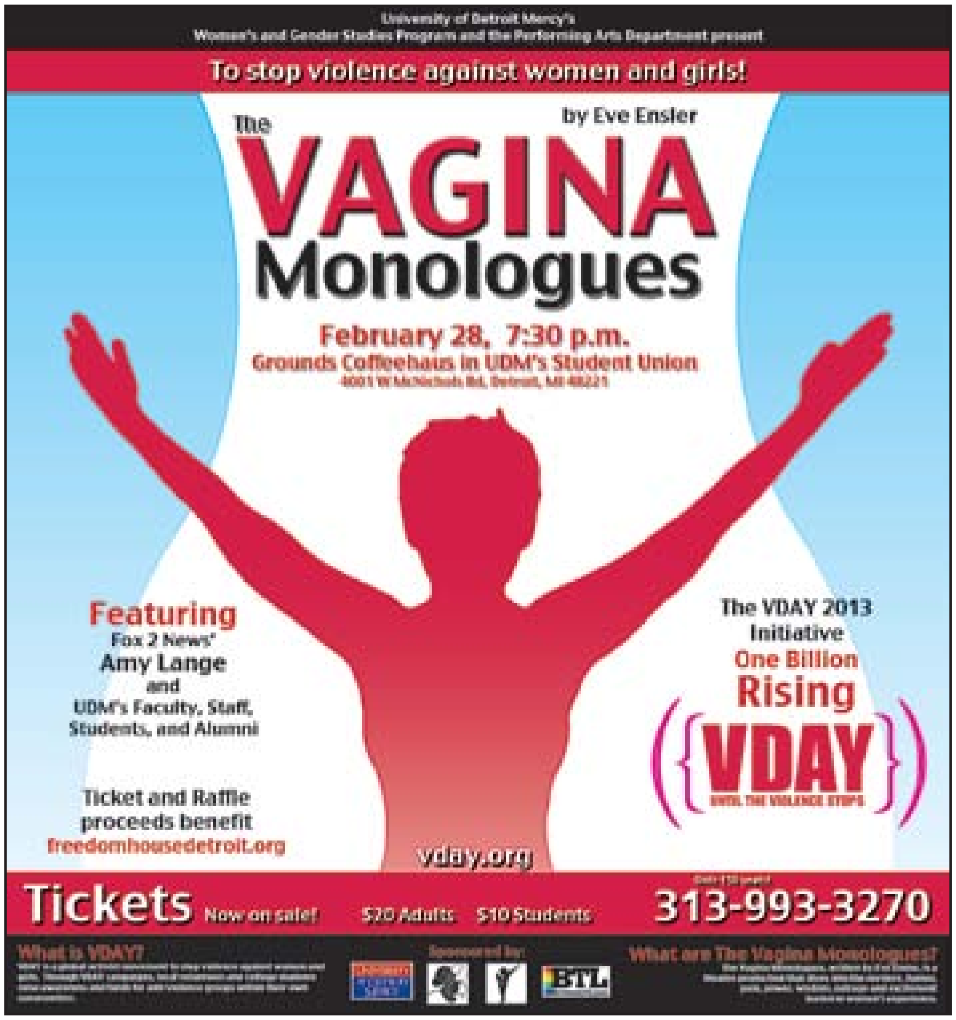
Dirty Show 14
Feb. 8-10, 14-16
Berts Warehouse Theater
2739 Russell St., Detroit
www.Dirtydetroit.com

Meeting Liza

It was really incredible and crazy. First of all, it came out of nowhere. This producer out in New York gave us a call and was like, "Hey, I'm thinking about having you come up here for this event." It was on Fire Island and we're like, "It could be like a cool little vacation." And then he's like, "Well, but I gotta tell you, you're gonna be performing with another performer. I hope you don't mind, but you're gonna be opening for Liza Minnelli and Alan Cumming." And we're like, "What the fuck? Hope we don't mind? That's absurd." So I talked to the other guys and they thought I was totally yanking their chains. They didn't really believe me until the contract was in our hands and the poster was drafted. (Laughs)

We had this tiny dressing room, and just to the side of the room was the walk-in beer cooler. We walk in and the door to the beer cooler swings open – and it was Liza Minnelli sitting on a stool in the beer freezer drinking a martini. We're like, "Uh, hello." (Laughs) We didn't know what to say, because we were all completely taken aback. For Pete's sake, she was sitting in a freezer drinking a

See The Dirty Show, page 16



University of Detroit Mercy's
Women's and Gender Studies Program and the Performing Arts Department present
To stop violence against women and girls!
The
VAGINA
Monologues
by Eve Ensler
February 28, 7:30 p.m.
Grounds Coffeehaus in UDM's Student Union
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Featuring
Fox 2 News'
Amy Lange
and
UDM's Faculty, Staff, Students, and Alumni
Ticket and Raffle proceeds benefit
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The Forum Foundation Presents Our Annual
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To benefit our GLBT Scholarship Fund
Friday, February 15th, 7-11 p.m.
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Music & Dancing
Open Bar
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Dessert
Silent Auction
50/50 Raffle
Tickets are $50 in advance $55 at the door (if available)
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248-356-7007

► The Dirty Show
Continued from p. 14

martini! We're like, "This is not the way we thought we'd be meeting you, if ever." (Laughs)

Embarrassing stage stories

We have had costume malfunctions. Zippers get stuck; corsets don't come off. Those codpieces can actually get very heavy because of what we put on top of them – sometimes really heavy material or jewels and things like that. Also, we dance around a lot and sweat a lot, too. Most recently, I was at a show and we did a final reveal facing the back, but my codpiece came off from underneath. So I totally fell out the bottom of it, and there were other people on stage behind me. They saw everything. If you go back and look at the photos, you can see the shock on everybody's face the instant it happened. Their eyes are as big as dinner plates. Jaws dropped. They just froze. And I just had to fake the ending. I covered myself with my hands and played it off as if there was literally nothing there, because there wasn't at that point. (Laughs)


Photo: Kaylin Idora

On the Dirty Show

It's one of the craziest, most incredible events. When we went, the place was just packed. The one really cool thing that really impressed us was there were hundreds and hundreds of people there, and they had music going and people were drinking, but it wasn't a party atmosphere. People were really respectful of the art and they really took it in and sat down for the show. They were really into the intention of the event.

"I can safely say that 1 1/2 of the three of us are gay. We'll leave it a mystery as to who is, who isn't and who's a little flexible!"

The gay question

It comes up all the time, but, I mean, it totally stands reason. It's nice that we can genuinely say that there's a spectrum there, so there's still an accessibility to guys *and* girls in the audience. It worked out that it happened that way. I can safely say that 1 1/2 of the three of us are gay. We'll leave it a mystery as to who is, who isn't and who's a little flexible!

Outside The Box

Spice Up The Bedroom With New Toys

VALENTINE'S GUIDE

BY JEROME STUART NICHOLS

As with most matters of the heart, the love and intimate connection you share in a romantic relationship is enough of a gift on its own. But – to keep things exciting – sometimes you need to make a purchase or two. With St. Valentine's Day just a few days away, it's more important than ever to find the right something that will give you two – or three – something to scream about.

To pick the right gift for Valentine's Day, one must take a lot of variables into consideration: What does your partner want? What do you want? Where's the common ground?

While you are buying a gift for someone else, the intimate nature of the day means you have to enjoy it too. The simplest solution is to look to the day itself for inspiration. Since Valentine's Day is a holiday made to celebrate romantic entanglements of all sorts, why not try to spend some time getting reacquainted with one another?

On Valentine's, it's important to offer your partner a gift that shows your partner how much you care about their well-being. For this, any ol' orifice could suffice. But this is a special day, you want to leave a lasting impression – it might be time to get a little hands-on.

On Valentine's, it's important to offer your partner a gift that shows your partner how much you care about their well-being. For this, any ol' orifice could suffice. But this is a special day, you want to leave a lasting impression – it might be time to get a little hands-on.

"A great way to make things more special is reconnecting in the bedroom with your significant other," says Kathyrn Todd, senior consultant with romantic aide sales company Pure Romance.

A sensual massage is a great excuse to get naked and spend some quality time exploring every supple nook and cranny of their body.

"It's relaxing and usually leads right into foreplay – and, um, everyone can take it from there," Todd says.

With massage oils and creams, you get your choice of many different scents, effects and – of course – flavors. At Pure Romance alone, they offer a candle that melts into massage oil and aroma therapy lotion, among others. Todd was particularly fond of their Hot Heart Massager, a heat pack that gives the sensation of a hot stone massage.

Not every grouping will need or want to spend hours working on their intimacy; some want to get right to creating a fifty-first shade of Grey. There's plenty of gifting options for the impatient. Here are a few:

Vibrating Cock Ring

The cock ring works by restricting blood flow out of the penis, which results in harder, stronger erections. With the addition of a vibrating bullet, each stroke will be even better. The person on top won't be complaining either. *Pure Romance Wireless Double Trouble Ring, $39.*

Masturbation Sleeve

Your guy can use it alone or you both can use it together. Great for mutual masturbation and to help him out when you're otherwise indisposed. *Super Stretch Lips, $29.*

G-Spot Vibrator

It's angled for the g-spot but it's the most versatile of all vibrators. Use them on the vulva or in the vagina. Because of the angle, it makes prostate play a reality even if you're a bit tied up. *The Marilyn, $59.*

Classic Strap-On Dildo

Get the thrusting action you want or simply double your efficiency. *L.O.L. Strap-on harness, $39.*

If you want to try something new but need a little help getting things going, Todd suggests exploring those fantasies with games.

According to Todd, games "help open the lines of communication, especially on taboo subjects. It just gets couples talking about things that they normally wouldn't bring up in a normal conversation."

Pick something that allows each of you to ask questions and explore each other's minds. Old college stand-bys like Truth or Dare and Never Have I Ever… could do the trick. Or, you know, you could just buy a dildo.




Happy Valentine's Day!





Between Ourselves

Kristi Faulkner

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

Kristi Faulkner is a 28-year-old dancer who grew up in Ohio, got her Master's Degree in New York and has brought her love of dancing to Ferndale so she could be with her partner. She is both a performer and a teacher, who generously spends her Monday nights doing a beginner's level class at Affirmations Community Center. The class explores a variety of styles designed to get people moving and enjoying music and dance. The one-hour class begins at 7 p.m. and there is a $5 suggested donation that benefits the community center.

Faulkner also teaches other classes here in Michigan and in Ohio, including a class at Bowling Green State University. Through her business, Kristi Faulkner Dance, she offers a variety of activities for dancers of all skill levels. She was also one of the strikers for the Hungry 4 Equality Campaign last fall, and the coordinator of a flash mob to promote the hunger strike.

When did you start Kristi Faulkner Dance and why?

I officially began Kristi Faulkner Dance at the beginning of 2012. It has always been my dream to have a professional dance company and I was very excited about building it in the Detroit area. There are so many talented individuals and creative minds in this area that are hungry for opportunity.

Artistically speaking, I began KFD because I had something to say. Growing up Catholic and closeted, I think I trained myself to hide my thoughts and feelings for fear of being "exposed." When I found my choreographic voice and grew to love and accept myself, my desire to create and share intensified. My work is often quite political, pushing the boundaries of gender, sexuality and social issues while challenging conventional ideas of performance.

I established KFD with the intention of making work that generates meaningful conversation and social exchange by working collaboratively with my fellow artists.



Photo courtesy of Kristi Faulkner Dance

When did you become interested in dancing, and what have you been involved in over the years?

I started dancing in my local studio at age 3. I remember coming home from my weekly tap class and performing what I learned on top of the coffee table for whoever would watch. Eventually I graduated to the kitchen floor, which my two younger sisters and I would turn into our own personal stage...bless my parents for caring more about our creative expression than the scrapes and scuff marks on the linoleum!

Theater and dance have always captivated me. I think I get my love of performing from my mom. She introduced me to musical theatre via living room song and dance parties to her record collection – my favorites were "Grease," "Fiddler on the Roof" and the "Singing Nun." I was fortunate to have two of the most wonderfully supportive parents who encouraged my interest. I took class in everything I could tap, jazz, ballet, hip hop, modern, West African - and performed on the dance team, my studio's competition team, my high school glee club and in school and community musicals.

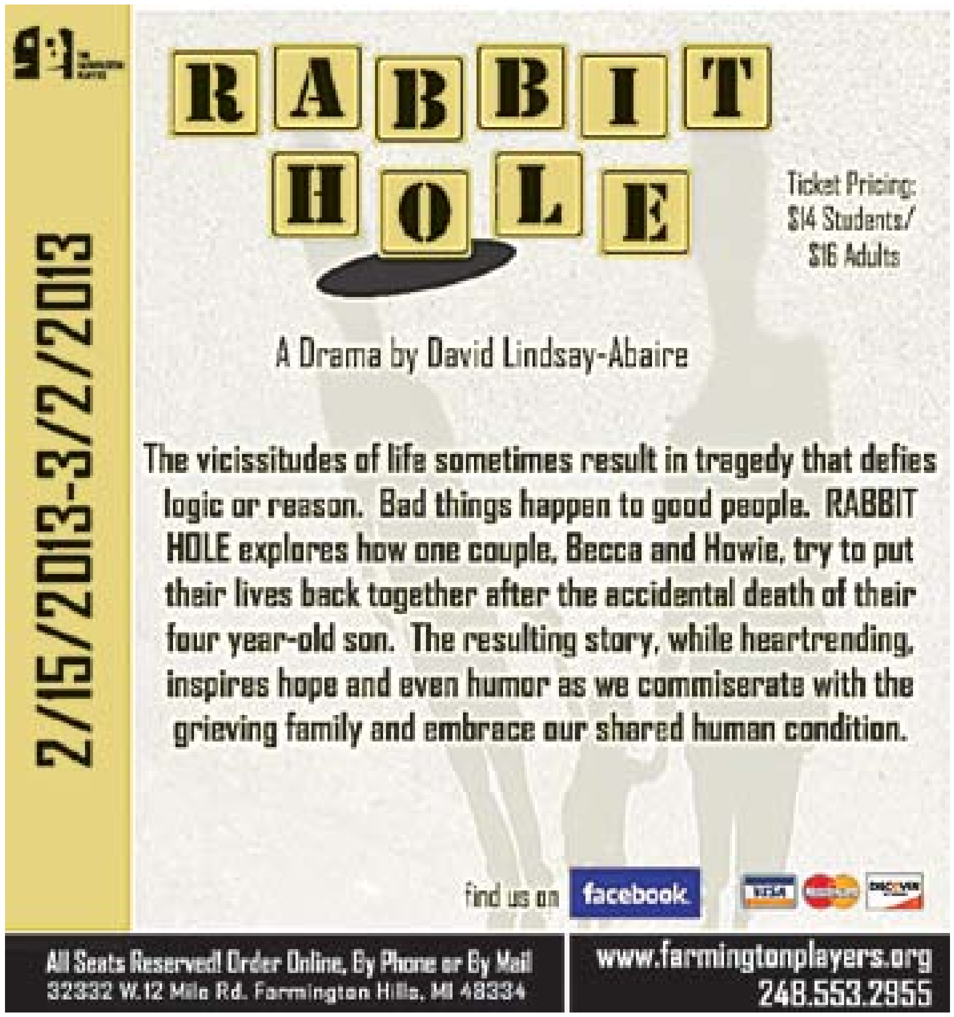
I toyed with pursing a "practical" career when entering college, but two weeks before classes began I switched my major and dove completely into dance and theater. The prospect of relegating my love of movement and performance to a hobby was something I just could not live with. Creating and performing wasn't just something I enjoyed doing, it was something I needed to do.

How long have you been teaching? Did you teach elsewhere before starting Kristi Faulkner Dance?

I began assisting at my studio in high school and taught numerous master classes throughout college and grad school. While in college, I taught creative movement for pre-schoolers and worked with Kindergarten classes through the Toledo Ballet's First Steps Program – a movement based curriculum that promotes literacy. I have also taught for the Trollwood

See Between Ourselves, page 22


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► Between Ourselves

Continued from p. 20

summer arts program in Fargo, ND – a month-long intensive program through the Fargo Public Schools. Currently, I am part-time faculty at Bowling Green State University and work at Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival in the summer.

Does anyone else help with the business we should mention?

I have incredibly dedicated and talented dancers, without whom I would not have a company. My biggest support, however, is my partner. She is my sounding board for both business and creative ideas and the self-proclaimed "biggest fan." As anyone who works in the arts can attest, there are times we are overwhelmed and filled with self-doubt. It is so important to have someone who not only believes in you, but also pushes you to take risks because they see your potential.

Why should people dance?

Why not? Why should people breathe! The gift of movement is so easily taken for granted. On a purely biological level, the increased blood flow and endorphin buzz we get from moving makes you healthier and happier. Dance isn't something that should be relegated to the privileged few. I think that people of all ages and abilities should have the opportunity to experience dance and the freedom that comes from using your body to convey meaning and emotion. While we are alive and able, I believe it is important to celebrate our bodies.

> *"Artistically speaking, I began KFD because I had something to say. Growing up Catholic and closeted, I think I trained myself to hide my thoughts and feelings for fear of being 'exposed.' When I found my choreographic voice and grew to love and accept myself, my desire to create and share intensified. My work is often quite political, pushing the boundaries of gender, sexuality and social issues while challenging conventional ideas of performance."*
>
> – Kristi Faulkner

Anything else the BTL readers should know about?

KFD is currently in the thick of rehearsals for my newest work, "Four Letter Word," which is set to premiere this spring. This work looks at gender, sexuality and the sometimes-humorous manifestations of love. I hope to inspire conversation to relieve anxiety people might have about the LGBT population and relationships that society may view as "unconventional."

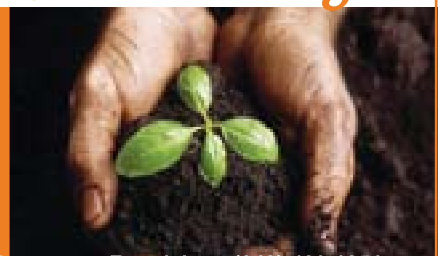
Follow the development of KFD and stay updated on performances and workshops by connecting through www.KristiFaulknerDance.com or on the Kristi Faulkner Dance Facebook page.

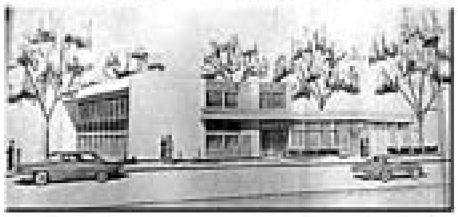


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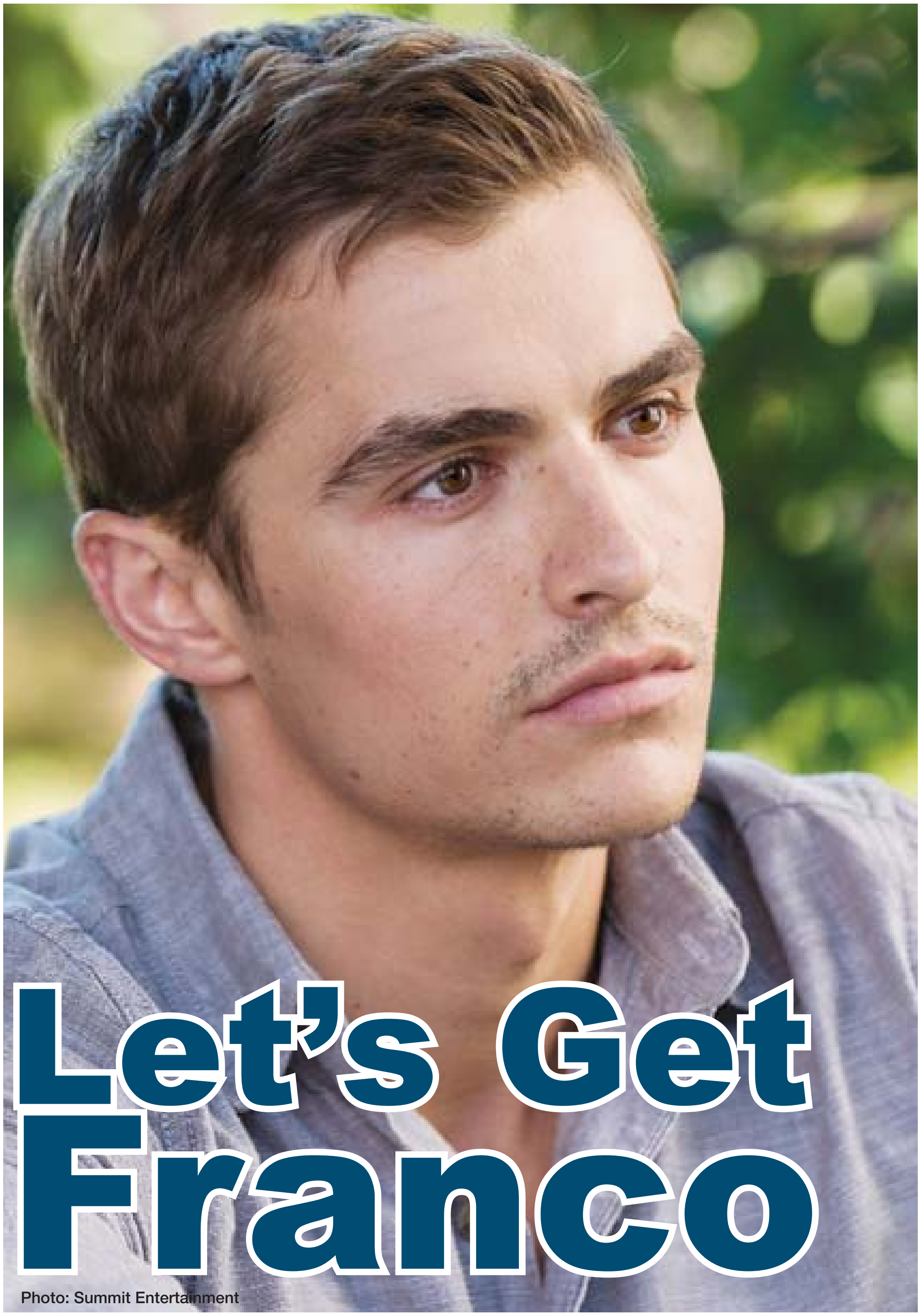


Photo: Summit Entertainment

Let's Get Franco

Breakout Star Dave Franco On New Coming-Of-Age Film, His Sex Appeal & Getting Gay With Brother James

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

James Franco isn't the only one fearlessly exploring homosexuality in his career. His own brother, Dave, is too. With himself, even.

The 27-year-old has attracted a big gay fan base ever since he starred in the 2007 indie "After Sex," the one where Mila Kunis was a lesbian, and put Channing Tatum in his place after a homophobic mix-up in last year's "21 Jump Street." But it's Dave's viral Funny or Die videos, where he's had sex with himself and also told actor Chris "McLovin" Mintz-Plasse "I wanna strip you down" (and other homoerotic things), that have really made the gays smitten.

Now the heartthrob is fighting zombies in the film adaptation of the best-selling book "Warm Bodies," also starring Nicholas Hoult of "A Single Man." In his first gay press interview, we picked Dave's brain on the outsider theme of his new flick, whether he plans to work on a gay project with James and how his sexually explicit videos are in no way baiting the boys who love them.

Under what conditions could you fall in love with a zombie?

I don't think the physical appearance is getting in the way for me. (Laughs) As long as they were a good person in the past life, and there's just some kind of sweetness behind those eyes, I'm in. I don't need much else.

Do you think there's some subtext in the movie's theme about love being boundless and knowing no sex or race – even life or death – that you think your gay fans might appreciate or relate to?

Definitely. If you take the zombie element out of the movie, it is still this coming-of-age movie about this outsider who is trying to find himself and eventually does through love. It does speak to the fact that it doesn't matter what your race or your sexual orientation is. Sometimes you can't explain a connection that works.

When were you first aware you had a gay following?

My friend I grew up with started calling me out and saying, "Dude, I can't even imagine what people who don't know you think of you." It's not like I'm doing these videos because I'm trying to shock or confuse people. I'm generally drawn toward material that's just different and unique and is gonna maybe surprise people a bit. So I was first aware that there was maybe some awareness of me from the gay community when all my friends were telling me there's all this stuff online and if you Google my name, the first thing that comes up is "Dave Franco Gay." (Laughs)

So right around the time you fucked yourself?

(Laughs) That didn't help things.

Whether you're having sex with yourself in "Go Fuck Yourself" or talking dirty to Chris in "You're So Hot," are these videos your way of showing your acknowledgement and support for the gay community?

Yeah, sure – definitely! I have gay friends and of course I'm comfortable enough with my sexuality that I'm open to doing videos like that. I know a huge audience is going to think that I am gay. I'm just trying to blur the lines, I guess. I'm not consciously trying to do that, but it's not something I think about. Like with my friends who are gay, it's not like that's the first thing I associate with them. They're just another friend, and they just happen to like guys.

Why are all the videos so gay?

There are a lot of very overtly gay things in these videos, but for some reason while I was making them, or while I was even initially thinking of the ideas, I swear to god I didn't think, "OK, we're gonna make another gay video that's gonna shock people." The way "You're So Hot" came about: I worked with Chris on a movie called "Fright Night" and in between takes we would play this game. It was a game that he and his buddies played growing up and it just made me laugh my ass off, so when the movie was done and we were back in L.A. I thought to myself, "This would make a really funny short."

Being comfortable with your sexuality seems to be something that runs in the Franco family. Obviously your brother also has no qualms with his sexuality. But whereas you explore it with humor, James has more of a political and sexual agenda. Do you see any overlap in the way you two explore homosexuality?

That's a good question. The main overlap is just how hard we dive into it. There's nothing subtle, I guess, about how we embrace gay culture – and there basically are no boundaries. We both push the envelope.

I don't know why a lot of what we create deals with that subject matter. I get asked that all the time, and I'm not consciously thinking to myself, "I'm gonna make these sexually explicit gay videos." It just comes through us for some reason.

You obviously have lots of appeal in the gay community. To know that, you don't have to look further than Perez Hilton's recent post, which includes a couple of pics of you and "Dear Dave Franco, FUCK ME!!!" as the headline.

Uh-oh. Come on.

How do you react to the gay community's excitement over you and your videos?

See Dave Franco, page 26



Alive & Well

Forbidden Love Explored In 'Warm Bodies'

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

I bet you don't think of yourself as a zombie. You feel, you think, you hopefully don't eat brains. Suggesting, however, that you're not all that different than the walking dead is "Warm Bodies," an outsiders coming-of-age rom-com with a zombie protagonist and his human crush who represent forbidden love and the age-old adage that "love conquers all"… and makes you feel less dead.

Like a modern-day "Romeo & Juliet," Julie meets R (a name she gives him because he can't remember his own) during a zombie invasion in post-apocalyptic America where it's dead things vs. humans – and Dave Franco. Franco plays Perry, Julie's hot boyfriend who meets a really unfortunate demise early on during a zombie ambush-gone-bad. Julie's rebound: the flesh-eater who killed him. R's endearing reasoning makes it hard to hate the fact that he just devoured one of the sexiest men alive. You see, he doesn't just eat brains like fast food. They're all he has to feel human.

Until Julie, who's completely weirded out by R's instant infatuation with her (of course she is) but also intrigued enough by the dude's affability and impressive taste in late-'80s rock music (of course she is). And who wouldn't like a partner who talks back in grunts and single-word sentences? It's a match made in zombie hell.

Julie's dad (John Malkovich), the shot-caller of the zombie-killing squad, is the Lord Capulet of the story; he's the dad you can't bring your partner home to because he wouldn't accept it. So Julie does what any other zombie-loving girl would do to hide the fact that her could-be boyfriend is undead: layers on the foundation and blush. Naturally, her friend Nora (Analeigh Tipton) – who decides to roll with this whole my-friend-loves-a-zombie absurdity – is amused by the makeover and throws on "Pretty Woman."

It would be simple to say that "Warm Bodies" is a lot like "Twilight," and in some very basic ways they're not all that different. There's a dead man and a not-dead woman who have a thing for each other. But even though Teresa Palmer, as Julie, reminded me of a more adequate Kristen Stewart – and "Warm Bodies," too, has a really terrific pop-rock soundtrack (John Waite's "Missing You" is used to great comedic effect in the beginning) – "Warm Bodies" isn't some tween soap-opera saga without a pulse.

Based on Isaac Marion's debut novel, director Jonathan Levine's follow up to the also-great cancer comedy "50/50" is frequently very funny with sharp self-referential wit, neat genre embellishments (zombies access memories via brains), and actors so competent they make Taylor Lautner look like he's the zombie. British actor Nicholas Hoult, a gay fave for the nurturing sweetness he showed Colin Firth's anguished widower in "A Single Man," is far from just a lifeless corpse; he really gets to the heart of the human within R.

With the all-but-dead "Warm Bodies," Levitt takes a tale as told as time – star-crossed lovers against the world – and breathes new life into it.

► Dave Franco

Continued from p. 24

I gotta embrace it, right? I love it. At this point, I'm so happy that *anyone* is even aware of me or is a fan of me. It's still something that I don't think I'll ever get used to. From just what I've heard and what I've observed, the gay community, when they revolve toward someone or something or a movie, they come full force and they tell everyone about it. Tell me if I'm wrong.

No, word spreads fast in the gay community if a Franco brother is naked.

Exactly. So I totally embrace it.

With your upcoming role in "Now You See Me" alongside some heavy hitters, your career is really taking off. Are you ready for a lead role? Any idea what you might want that to be?

I'm definitely ready for a lead role. My criteria for picking a project these days is just wanting to work with filmmakers I admire. I do want to make my own films one day. I've been writing and producing and editing all these Funny or Die videos, and it's kind of been practice on a much smaller scale. I want to work with guys like Jonathan Levine, who directed "Warm Bodies" and who I've admired for years. I just wanna be on set with these guys and see the process and see how they work with actors regardless of how big or small my role. So, honestly, I would be an extra in all of Paul Thomas Anderson's movies. I just wanna be around these guys.

The Funny or Die videos really helped launch your career, as did the "Acting with James Franco" skits. Other than "Broken Tower," do you have plans to work on any projects with James that might have a gay sensibility?

I love my brother and I respect him so much, but in general, I have been trying to distance myself from him just in terms of work, because I need to kind of carve my own path at this point. I don't want to be referred to as "James Franco's little brother" for the rest of my life. So it's hard sometimes, because he is creating so many of his own projects and he asks me to be a part of them and I would love to – but at this point, I just need to distance myself from him work-wise.

Down the line, who knows, man. We do work very well together and our sensibilities are very similar, obviously. We might push the envelope almost too far if we combine our heads. I'm open to the idea. If I establish myself a little bit more, and people start giving me my own due, I would love to work with him down the line.

You say "almost too far." You mean make it *too* gay? I think that's already been done by both of you.

Who knows how weird it could get if the two of us get together.

You mention his projects, and currently James is making headlines for his interest in gay art films, including the gay sex indie "Interior. Leather Bar." Have you seen it? Do you plan to?

The only one I've seen is "Broken Tower," just because I was a part of that production. I've obviously heard stories or read about these projects, but I really have no basis to say anything at this point.

Do you get annoyed when journalists bring your brother up?

No! I totally understand it. It could be a lot worse. At least he's a very well-respected guy, and I do love him. We get along very well. But with that being said, it is a little comforting, and I feel slightly relieved, that at least the James questions have been dialed down a little bit.



What's coming up for you besides "Now You See Me" and "Warm Bodies"?

There are a few things that are in the air that I can't quite talk about just yet, but I am always pumping out these Funny or Die videos. I do all of them with one of my good friends who I've known since childhood, and we have one coming out in a couple weeks. This one is actually the cleanest one we've done. The rest are rated X, but this one's like a hard PG-13.

Without giving too much away, it's with an NBA star who's 7 feet tall and then, of course, myself. I'm not the biggest guy in the world, so it's this odd couple – the two of us competing in a series of events. It's still in the same vein and tone as the rest of the videos, but because he's a professional athlete, he can't push the envelope as much as I'd generally like to.

I'm always writing something. I'm working on a feature-length film right now. Two years ago I made a decision to only audition and meet on projects that I'm actually passionate about. I knew it might be the stupidest decision I ever made because I might never work again, but in the meantime, that's how these Funny or Die videos came out.

Happenings

OUTINGS

Thursday, Feb. 7

Free HIV Testing with S3 and HARC 5 p.m. Free and confidential HIV testing provided by HIVA/IDS Resource Center at S3 Safe Sex Store. Call ahead to schedule an appointment, or simply walk-in. Appointments take approximately 20-30 minutes. Testing is provided the first and third Thursday of the month at S3. S3 Safe Sex Store and HIVAIDS Resource Center, 1209 S. University, Ann Arbor. 734-741-1434. S3safesexstore.com

Gender Non-Conformists 7 p.m. A social and discussion group for transgender, genderqueer, gender-neutral and gender-exploring individuals. Space also available to significant others. Meets every Thursday. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. JJenkins@GoAffirmations.org GoAffirmations.org

Speak Out 7 p.m. Offers a welcoming environment for LGBT people to improve their public speaking and leadership skills. Meets the first and fourth Thursday of every month. Jim Toy Community Center, 319 Braun Ct., Ann Arbor. 734-995-9867. Crystalr@jimtoycenter.org

Toastmaster's International SpeakOUT! Club 7 p.m. Toastmasters shows others how to listen effectively, think on their feet, speak confidently and learn valuable leadership skills. Meets the first Thursday of every month. Jim Toy Community Center, 319 Braun Ct., Ann Arbor. 734-995-9867. JimToyCenter.org

Friday, Feb. 8

GLSEN 6 p.m. Social and discussion group for members of local high school LGBT groups. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

Youth Only HIV Testing 6 p.m. Free anonymous testing for individuals 21 and under. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. GoAffirmations.org

First Annual Valentines Dance 7 p.m. Featuring DJ Lena. Cover: $10 in advance, $15 at the door. Cash Bar and drink specials. Enjoy the sultry, high-end decor complete with leather sofas, polished dance floor, high-top cocktail tables and more. GOAL! Get Out And Live!, 200 N. Main St., Royal Oak. 248-943-2411. Info@getoutandlive.me Getoutandlive.me/index.php/events/395-metro-lavender-first-annual-valentines-dance

Lavender Dance Metro 7 p.m. First annual Valentine's Dance by Get Out And Live! Featuring, DJ Lena, admission is $10 in advance, $15 at the door. Get Out And Live!, 200 North Main St., Royal Oak. 234-943-2411. Info@getoutandlive.me Getoutandlive.me/index.php/events/395-metro-lavender-first-annual-valentines-dance

Older Lesbians Organizing 7 p.m. Provides older Lesbians with the chance to meet like minded women in their common struggles, to share mutual interests and to play and work together. Meets the 2nd Friday of every month. Older Lesbians Organizing, 319 Braun Ct., **Ann Arbor.** 734-995-9867. Jasmithers@sbcglobal.net JimToyCenter.org

Womyn's Film Night 7 p.m. Film: Pariah; Brooklyn teen Alike is a model child around her devoutly religious family, but she sheds the good-girl image to reveal a harder side during a nightclub excursion with butch pal Laura. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

Saturday, Feb. 9

Crossroads 7 p.m. Dedicated to serving the needs of transgender individuals. Meets the second Saturday of every month. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. GoAffirmations.org

Motor City Bears 7 p.m. Social group for metro area bears. Meets every second Saturday of the month. Motor City Bears, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale.** 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

Sunday, Feb. 10

Rainbow Book Club 4:30 p.m. Book club dedicated to reading and discussing classic and contemporary lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer literature. Meeting since before 1998, every second Sunday of the month. Rainbow Book Club, 319 Braun Ct., **Ann Arbor.** Catherine.herne@gmail.com

Conversation Station 5 p.m. Discussion Group with facilitator. LGBTQI (and allies) 35 and over, join GOAL each week for discussion, food and fun. Topic: If you could hang a motto or quote in every home, what would it say? Get Out And Live!, 714 S. Washington St., Royal Oak. 248-981-4227. GetOutAndLive.me

Monday, Feb. 11

The Affordable Care Act and LGBT Consumers 2 p.m. How Healthcare Reform Improves Access to Quality, Affordable Healthcare. Michigan Consumers for Healthcare, Equality Michigan, Center for American Progress, 2200 N Squirrel Road, Rochester . 810-516-5260. Eli@consumersforhealthcare.org Consumersforhealthcare.org

One Voice Chorus 7 p.m. LGBT Choral group. Meets every Monday. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

Sexual Compulsives Anonymous 7 p.m. A weekly anonymous 12 step group for those who are facing sexually compulsive behaviors. 290 W. 9 Mile Road, **Ferndale.** 248-398-7105. GoAffirmations.org

LGBTA Gender Explorers Group 8 p.m. Meets the second and fourth Mondays of every month. Spectrum Center, 3200 Michigan Union, 530 S. State St., Ann Arbor. Pajeho@med.umich.edu

Tuesday, Feb. 12

Calhoun County Coalition for Inclusion 5 p.m. Faith leaders, medical professionals, students, teachers, youth and community members. 2855 Capital Ave., Battle Creek. Ppmsm3ci.org

Transgender Life Support 7 p.m. Offering support, education, resources and a social structure for Transgender individuals. Facilitated by Arlene Kish, Lorraine Brown, Jessica Manko, Tracy Hoover, Marty Howland and Colt F. McIssac. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale.** 248-398-7105. Transgenderlifesupport.org

Women's Social Group 7 p.m. Women's discussion group. Plans a monthly group activity such as dinner, movies, games. The Lesbian and Gay Community Network , 343 Atlas Ave. SE, Grand Rapids. 616-458-3511. Grlgbt.org/calendar/

Wednesday, Feb. 13

Ladies Who Lunch 11:30 a.m. Ladies meet at Nina's Cafe for food and conversation. Contact Angie to make a reservation. The Resource Center, 1710 W. Main St., **Kalamazoo.** Kglrc.org

Coping with Disabilities Group 1 p.m. Ongoing discussion group for adults with disabilities. Discussions about LGBT friendly doctors, counseling, health benefits, and activities. Every second and fourth Wednesday. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale.** 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

Senior Koffee Klatch 1 p.m. A lively, discussion and social group for LGBT adults over 45. Group covers topics pertaining to aging and outside speakers. Potluck dinners at members homes, lunches out and holiday parties. Senior Koffee Klatch,

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Editor's Pick

Fifteen-time Grammy award winner and recipient of the Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award, Tony Bennett is not just an musician who moves the hearts and touches the souls of audiences worldwide, but an international treasure honored by the United Nations with its Citizen of the World award.

Bennett is best known for his pop landmark "I Left My Heart in San Francisco" and other timeless classics such as "The Best Is Yet To Come" and "Because of You." In addition to his North American touring, Bennett continues to record his popular "Duets" series with today's hottest music stars.

See Tony Bennett perform at 9 p.m., Feb. 9 at the The Colosseum at Caesars Windsor. Tickets start at $45. For more information, go to www.CaesarsWindsor.com.

► **Happenings**

Continued from p. 27

290 W. Road Mile Road, **Ferndale.** 586-573-9932. GoAffirmations.org

Wild Wednesday 6 p.m. A group for youth ages 12-18 interested in hanging out with other kind and supportive youth in a safe environment. Dedicated to Make a Change, 319 Braun Ct., Ann Arbor. 734-657-1792. Gail@dedicatedtomakeachange.com Dedicatedtomakeachange.com

TransCend 6:30 p.m. Open to persons 18 and older. Younger are welcome with parent or guardian permission. Kalamazoo Gay Lesbian Resource Center, 629 Pioneer St., **Kalamazoo.** 269-349-4234. Kglrc.org

Transgender SOS 7 p.m. A safe space for spouses, partners, family and friends of transgender people. Ages 18 and up. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale.** 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

MUSIC & MORE

CLASSICAL

Detroit Symphony Orchestra "Beethoven Symphonies: 1 & 6" Beethoven's Overture to Egmont, Symphony No. 1 and No. 6. Tickets: $15. Max M. Fisher Music Center, 3711 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 10:45 a.m. Feb. 14, 7:30 p.m. Feb. 14. 313-576-5111. DSO.org

Detroit Symphony Orchestra "Beethoven Symphonies: 2 & 7" Beethoven's Overture to Coriolan, Symphony No. 2 and No. 7. Tickets: $15. Max M. Fisher Music Center, 3711 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 8 p.m. Feb. 15, 8 p.m. Feb. 16. 313-576-5111. DSO.org

Lansing Symphony Orchestra "Classical Mystery Tour: A Tribute to the Beatles" Join the Lansing Symphony in hosting the Classical Mystery Tour in A tribute to the Beatles. Come sing along with this group to Beatles music accompanied by the Orchestra. Tickets: $15-40. Wharton Center for the Performing Arts at Michigan State University, Michigan State University, East Lansing. 8 p.m. Feb. 9. 517-353-1982 ext. 14. LansingSymphony.org

CONCERTS

Caesars Windsor "Tony Bennett" Tickets: $45. Caesars Windsor, 377 E. Riverside Dr., Windsor. 9 p.m. Feb. 9. 800-991-7777. CaesarsWindsor.com

Detroit Symphony Orchestra "Beethoven Symphonies:3 & 8" Beethoven's Leonore Overture No. 3, Symph. No. 8 and 3, Eroica. Tickets: $15. Max M. Fisher Music Center, 3711 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 10:45 a.m. & 8 p.m. Feb. 8. 313-576-5111. DSO.org

Farmington Players "Songs to Celebrate Love" All-time favorite selections from The American Songbook, such as "I Can't Give You Anything But Love," and many more as the Metro Jazz Singers perform a celebration of love. Tickets: $17-19. Farmington Players Barn Theatre, 32332 W. 12 Mile Road, Farmington Hills. 7:30 p.m. Feb. 8. 248-473-1856. FarmingtonPlayers.org

Michigan Philharmonic "The French Connection" Parisian inspiration with piano prodigy Anastasia Rizikov playing Ravel's jazzy Piano Concerto, and an intimate rendition of the ever-popular Bolero. Tickets: $20. First United Methodist Church, 45201 N. Territorial Road, Plymouth. 2 p.m. Feb. 10. 734-453-5280. MichiganPhil.org

Music Hall Center for the Performing Arts "The Band of the Scots Guards and The Pipes, Drums, and Highland Dancers of The Black Watch 3rd Battalion" Celebrating over 370 years of military prestige and pageantry, the legendary Pipes, Drums and Highland Dancers of Scotland's Black Watch join forces with the Band of the Scots Guards for an evening that celebrates the music of Scotland, England, Ireland and Wales. Music Hall Center for the Performing Arts, 350 Madison, Detroit. 8 p.m. Feb. 9. 313-887-8501. MusicHall.org

Royal Oak Music Theatre "Nick Offerman" American Ham Tour with the star of Parks & Recreation. Tickets: $25. Royal Oak Music Theatre, 318 W. Fourth St., Royal Oak. 8 p.m. Feb. 8. 248-399-2980. RoyalOakMusicTheatre.com

Royal Oak Music Theatre "Jim Jefferies" Tickets: $29.50. Royal Oak Music Theatre, 318 W. Fourth St., Royal Oak. 8 p.m. Feb. 15. 248-399-2980. RoyalOakMusicTheatre.com

St. James Episcopal Church "Bach–Goldberg Variations" Glenn Burdette, harpsichord. Freewill offering. St. James Episcopal Church, 355 W. Maple Road, Birmingham. 4 p.m. Feb. 10. 248-644-0820. stjamesbirmingham.org

The Ark "Yo La Tengo" American alternative rock band. Despite achieving limited mainstream success, Yo La Tengo has been called "the quintessential critics' band" and maintains a strong cult following. Tickets: $22-45. Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Feb. 8. 734-668-8397. TheArk.org

The Ark "Blues at the Crossroads 2: Muddy & The Wolf" Tickets: $30-75. Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Feb. 9. 734-668-8397. TheArk.org

The Ark "My Folky Valentine" With Annie & Rod Capps and more. Tickets: $15. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Feb. 14. 734-761-1800. TheArk.org

The Ark "Klezmer Guy" Tickets: $20. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Feb. 15. 734-761-1800. TheArk.org

The Ark "Erin McKeown" Tickets: $15. The Ark, 316 S. Main, Ann Arbor. 7:30 p.m. Feb. 10. 734-761-1800. TheArk.org

The Crofoot "Hunter Valentine" Tickets: $10-12. The Loving Touch, 22634 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. 7 p.m. Feb. 7. 248-858-9333. Thecrofoot.com/events/2065.html

THEATER

CIVIC/COMMUNITY THEATER

A Song for Coretta $5-10. Center Stage Jackson at Kiesel Auditorium at Middle School at Parkside, 2400 Fourth St., Jackson. Feb. 15–24. 517-414-8652. CenterStageJackson.org

Cinderella, Kids $5-20. The Croswell Opera House, 129 E. Maumee St., Adrian. Feb. 8–17. 517-264-SHOW. Croswell.org

Curtains–The Musical $18-20. Stagecrafters at Baldwin Theatre, 415 S. Lafayette Ave., Royal Oak. Through Feb. 10. 248-541-6430. Stagecrafters.org

Hilarious Chekhov: The Bear and The Proposal $12. Ann Arbor Civic Theatre at A2CT Studio Theatre, 322 W. Ann St., Ann Arbor. Feb. 15–17. 734-971-2228. a2ct.org

Rabbit Hole $14-16. Farmington Players, 32332 W. 12 Mile Road, Farmington Hills. Feb. 15–March 2. 248-553-2955. FarmingtonPlayers.org

Shakespeare in Hollywood $11-12. The Twin City Players, 600 W. Glenlord Road, St. Joseph. Through Feb. 17. 269-429-0400. TwinCityPlayers.org

The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abridged) $17-19. Spotlight Players at The Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill Road, Canton. Feb. 15–24. 734-394-5300. SpotLightPlayersMi.org

COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY THEATER

Caroline or Change $18-20. The University Theatre at York Arena Theatre inside the Gilmore Theatre Complex, 1903 W. Michigan Ave., Kalamazoo. Through Feb. 10. 269-387-6222. WMUTheatre.com

Communicating Doors $5-20. The University Theatre at Williams Theatre , Gilmore Theatre Complex, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo. Feb. 7–17. 269-387-07222. WMUTheatre.com

Legally Blonde $10-18. Oakland University Theatre at Varner Studio Theatre, 2200 N. Squirrel Rd., Rochester. Through Feb. 10. oakland.edu/theatreseason

The Arabian Nights $12-15. Bonstelle Theatre, 3424 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Feb. 8–17. 313-577-2960. Bonstelle.com

U.P. $10-15. Michigan State University Department of Theatre at RCAH Auditorium, Snyder-Phillips Hall, East Lansing. Feb. 5–10. Theatre.msu.edu

Urinetown: The Musical $7-15. Eastern Michigan University Theatre at Quirk Theatre in the Quirk Dramatic Arts Building, East Circle and Best Hall, Ypsilanti. Feb. 15–24. 734-487-2282. Mtishows.com/show_detail.asp?showid=000280

PROFESSIONAL

Brill $25-$41. Performance Network Theatre, 120 E. Huron, Ann Arbor. Through Feb. 10. 734-663-0681. performancenetwork.org

Drumline Live $20-45. Macomb Center for the Performing Arts, 44575 Garfield Road, Clinton Township. Feb. 16. 586-286-2222. MacombCenter.com

End Days $15-22. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam Road, Williamston. Through Feb. 24. 517-655-SHOW. WilliamstonTheatre.org

Fela! $30-100. Music Hall Center for the Performing Arts, 350 Madison, Detroit. Feb. 12–17. 313-887-8501. MusicHall.org

Goodnight Desdemona (Good Morning Juliet) $12-30. Hilberry Theatre, 4743 Cass Ave., Detroit. Through Feb. 9. 313-577-2972. Hilberry.com

Jack and the Beanstalk $8-12. Wild Swan Theater at Towsley Auditorium, Morris Lawrence Building, Washtenaw Community College, 4800 E. Huron River Dr., Ann Arbor. Feb. 14–16. 734-995-0530. WildSwanTheater.org

Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat $18. The Encore Musical Theatre Company, 3126 Broad St., Dexter. Feb. 7–March 3. 734-268-6200. TheEncoreTheatre.org

Lake Effect Fringe Festival $10. Dog Story Theater, 7 Jefferseon SE, Grand Rapids. Through Feb. 24. PCShakespeare.com

Light Cavalry $17-20. Comic Opera Guild at Lydia Mendelssohn Theater, 911 N. University Ave., Ann Arbor. Feb. 7–9. 734-763-8587. Mutotix.com

Oh, Ananse $10 adult, $5 child. PuppetART at Detroit Puppet Theatre, 25 E. Grand River, Detroit. Through Feb. 23. 313-961-7777. puppetart.org

Photograph 51 $38-$45. The Jewish Ensemble Theatre Company at Aaron DeRoy Theatre on the campus of the Jewish Community Center, 6600 W. Maple Road., West Bloomfield. Through Feb. 10. 248-788-2900. jettheatre.org

Show and Tell $15. Puzzle Piece Theatre at Russell Industrial Center, 1600 Clay St., Detroit. Feb. 7–24. 313-303-8019. PuzzleStage.org

Sister Act $32+. Wharton Center for the Performing Arts, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. Feb. 12–Feb. 17. 800-WHARTON. WhartonCenter.com

Soul Mates $15-$18. Magenta Giraffe Theatre Company at The Abreact Performance Space, 1301 W. Lafayette #113, Detroit. Through Feb. 23. 313-408-7269. MagentaGiraffe.org

The Divas Project $20-38. Plowshares Theatre Company at Boll Family YMCA Theatre, 1401 Broadway St., Detroit. Feb. 15–March 10. 313-744-3181. Plowshares.org

The Lion King $25+. Broadway in Detroit at Detroit Opera House, 1526 Broadway St., Detroit. Feb. 13–March 10. 313-237-SING. BroadwayinDetroit.com

The Little Prince $7-17. Music Hall Center for the Performing Arts, 350 Madison, Detroit. 4 p.m. Feb. 10. 313-887-8501. MusicHall.org

The Meaning of Almost Everything $18.50–$42. The Purple Rose Theatre Company, 137 Park St., Chelsea. Through March 9. 734-433-7673. purplerosetheatre.org

The Whipping Man $23-27. Farmers Alley Theatre, 221 Farmers Alley, Kalamazoo. Feb. 8–24. 269-343-2727. FarmersAlleyTheatre.com

Traces $20-52. Macomb Center for the Performing Arts, 44575 Garfield Road, Clinton Township. Feb. 9. 586-286-2222. MacombCenter.com

Trent's Last Case $16. Broadway Onstage Live Theatre, 21517 Kelly Rd., Eastpointe. Through Feb. 9. 586-771-6333. broadwayonstage.com

Who's Afraid of the Big Bad Wolf $8-10. Two Muses Theatre at Barnes and Noble Booksellers, 6800 Orchard Lake Road, West Bloomfield. Feb. 9–24. 248-850-9919. TwoMusesTheatre.org

Wings $10-20. University of Detroit Mercy Theatre Company at Marygrove College Theatre, 8425 W. McNichols Road, Detroit. Feb. 8–Feb. 17. 313-993-3270. Theatre.UDMercy.edu

ART'N'AROUND

Charles H. Wright Museum "Visions of Our 44th President" 315 E. Warren, Detroit. Nov. 1–April 30. 313-494-5853. Thewright.org

Cranbrook Art Museum "From Here to There: Alec Soth's America" 39221 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills. Nov. 17–March 30. 877-462-7262. CranbrookArtMuseum.org

Detroit Institute of Arts "Motor City Muse: Detroit Photographs, Then and Now" 2100 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Jan. 1–June 16. 313-833-7900. DIA.org

Flint Institute of Arts "Around the World with 80 Objects" 1120 E. Kearsley St., Flint. Jan. 1–June 30. Flintarts.org

Kalamazoo Institute of Arts "The Arts of China and Japan: Selections from the Collection" 314 S. Park St., Kalamazoo. Jan. 1–June 9. 269-349-7775. KIArts.org

Lawrence Street Gallery "TheBody Eclectic" A juried competition featuring the figure. Lawrence Street Gallery, 22620 Woodward Ave. Suite A, Ferndale. Feb. 1–Feb. 28. 248-544-0394. Lawrencestreetgallery.com

Liquid Flow "T.A.S.T.E." Transcending Artist Simply Thru Entertainment. Tickets: $5. All night open mic. All performers welcome. Food provided by $2 Dollar Tacos. Tangent Gallery, 715 E. Milwaukee, Detroit. 9 p.m. Feb. 13. Facebook.com/events/398886040201459

Michigan State University Museum "East Meets West: The Transgender Community of Istanbul" Gives a rare insight into the lives of people in transition living in the economic and cultural heart of Turkey. Its photographic portraits–taken by photographer Mary Robert–explore the complex identities of the members of a community of male-female transsexuals living in Istanbul. MSU Museum Heritage Gallery, 409 W. Circle Dr., East Lansing. Jan. 22–April 14. Museum.msu.edu

Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit "When Attitudes Became Form Become Attitudes" 4454 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 313-832-6622. MOCADetroit.org

The Henry Ford "Celebrate Black History" Join us special programming and interactive musical and dramatic performances. Wednesdays through Sundays. The Henry Ford Museum, 20900 Oakwood, Dearborn. Feb. 1–Feb. 28. 313-982-6001. TheHenryFord.org



Editor's Pick

Stagecrafters' "Curtains – The Musical" features a protagonist with whom members of the community theater group can relate. A detective by day, Frank Cioffi (Bob Marselle) gives his time to the local community theater for several weeks a year. "All us of involved have a connection to this character," said director Debbie Landis-Sigler of Clawson. "He finds the theater fulfilling and is willing to give his time and talent simply for the love of it. That sounds like most of us."

The show runs through Feb. 10 at the Baldwin Theatre, 415 S. Lafayette in downtown Royal Oak.

With music both playful and poignant, this detective bitten by the theater bug sets out to solve a murder case against a colorful backdrop of a Broadway-bound show circa 1959.

Advance tickets for performances are $18 on Thursdays and $20 on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. Tickets may be by phone at 248-541-6430.



Jaye Stellini and Jonathan Davidson are among the "Soul Mates" in Magenta Giraffe's current production at The Abreact Performance Space. Photo: Chuk Nowak

Unbreakable Bonds, Unbeatable Connections

BY CAROLYN HAYES

At once simple and complex, Magenta Giraffe Theatre Company's "Soul Mates" delivers variations on a theme, with a gentle but insistent twist. This world premiere – the first professional production for emerging local playwright Kirsten Knisely – is an ambitious piece that seeks to blend the freedom of isolated two-person vignettes with the intricacy of meticulously planned links that tell a larger story. Here, backed by a sharply considered concept and the evident accord of a gifted ensemble, director Frannie Shepherd-Bates wisely focuses on the rewarding connections of the play's diverse array of soul mate relationships, allowing the burgeoning web of connectedness to speak for itself.

After ringing a brief foreshadowing knell in the remote past, Knisely pitches forward in time toward the present, via an establishing scene that overtly lays out the play's conception of its titular theme. These glimpses into other eras prove a heyday for costumer Lauren Montgomery and properties designer Gwen Lindsay that set the tone for the visual richness to follow. Against the marbled backdrop of Lindsay's neutral scenic design, Montgomery in particular ensures that every inspired and inherent choice says something, filling the all-purpose vacuum of the playing space with satisfying palettes. By necessity, however, the designers reach their zenith early, gloriously constructing a 1980s tween habitat in which a pair of besties (the sweetly contrasting Julia Garlotte and Jaye Stellini) mulls over the meaning of romantic unions and lifelong friendships between turns of "Electronic Mall Madness."

PREVIEW

Soul Mates

Magenta Giraffe Theatre Company at The Abreact Performance Space, 1301 W. Lafayette #113, Detroit. 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday through Feb. 23, plus 3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 17. $15-$18. 313-408-7269. www.MagentaGiraffe.org

This scene and others are propelled by a sputtering energy – some of which may have been a byproduct of opening-night fervor, but the drive is clearly ingrained. Gratefully, the ensemble cast finds appropriate outlets through the text, often in scripted moments employing incidental music. Here, sound design by Shepherd-Bates steps up with funny and prescient selections, atmospheric cues, and an undercurrent of strummy warm tunes about connection (featuring locally sourced music by D'Orchestra). In her capacity as director, Shepherd-Bates's strength is in identifying the relationship dynamics and digging in from the outset; the show's finest scene work flourishes with Knisely's ear for effortless dialogue and organic build.

The conventional definition of soul mates is a romantic one, and the play delivers several such relationships in multiple permutations: As mismatched friends with benefits, Stellini plays boldly genuine opposite the boisterously expressive Jonathan Davidson; another stellar scene strikes awkward comic gold, as Garlotte and Matthew Turner Shelton hit it off through a sea of cringe-worthy and cutely lamented faux pas. Yet the production makes a strong case for platonic and familial relationships to have the same import, demonstrated by Davidson and Shelton as different characters in two scenes: one of roommates that brings equal parts humor and high stakes, another of brothers at a critical crossroads of openness, uncertainty and betrayal.

Even as each scene has its own unique feel and standing power, a framework begins to emerge that binds this loose amalgamation of individuals. The payoffs begin lightly and keep the viewer invested in a growing world, but as the character recurrences and links begin to compound and the chronology grows more heavily insistent, a late reveal shows the playwright's hand in a way that makes baldly apparent her need for the audience to care about the big picture. The risk does bring some emotional satisfaction, but at a price – the effortless flow of solely relationship-focused scenes sags with added weight, culminating in truth bombs, mouthpiece philosophy, and forced absolution that venture to the edge of hackneyed territory.

Ultimately, Shepherd-Bates and company have cultivated a deeply felt series of relationships at intriguing junctures, welling up with comedy and honesty in an evocative cycle. This staging makes evident Knisely's skill as a playwright, although her strengths of invention and composition are gently undercut by her compulsion for greater personal meaning. As a journey into and through the concept, "Soul Mates" defers to its underlying structure more than is necessary; as a glimpse into the bonds of people permanently imprinted on each other, this inventive script and lush production more than satisfies.

Solution to puzzle from page 32

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Classifieds

113 ANNOUNCEMENTS - OPPORTUNITIES

Actors Wanted for Adodi Detroit

Looking for black male actors/ singers ages 18-60, for, Fighting Words, a gay themed program to be presented at the Adodi Spring Retreat in April. 1-810-348-6098 Ask for Sidney

428 PROF. SERVICES - MASSAGE

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To place a classified visit PRIDESOURCE.COM/classifieds
734-293-7200 ext. 15







Meet Scrappy Doo!

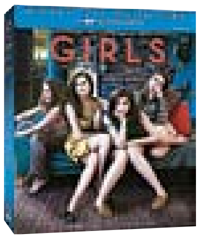
A 9-month-old Jack Russell Terrier mix, Scrappy Doo weighs 33 pounds and might grow a bit larger before it‚Äôs all said and done. This smart pup loves to play and get your attention, but when it‚Äôs time to settle down, you‚Äôll have a nice furry ball on your feet. Come meet him today! The adoption fee includes sterilization, age-appropriate vaccinations, the MHS Adoption Guarantee and much more.

For more information, visit or call the MHS Rochester Hills Center for Animal Care at (248) 852-7420 and provide the pet ID number, 738847. Photo courtesy Heidi Waeschle-Gabel.



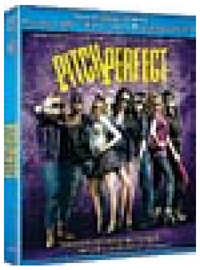
 BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

Girls, Pitch Perfect



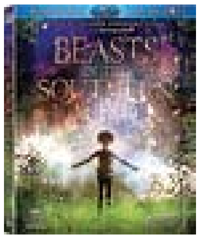
Girls: The Complete First Season

Did "Sex and the City" make you feel bad about your own life? Who's got the money for a Louis Vuitton bag, anyway? Not Hannah, who shamelessly mooches free hotel food from her parents, falls for men who aren't classically hot (and for gay ones, too), and who dances on her own to Robyn. She's the Carrie – only because she's the one with the most screen time, and because she's a writer – of this NYC girl group. Clueless as to what she should do with her life, Hannah spends a lot of time having sex with the weirdly handsome Adam and worrying about everything. Lena Dunham plays her, and she's also the head writer of the phenomenal "Girls," one of the best series on TV right now (the second season is currently airing) – a real-world take on life as we know it, with adorable, sexy, funny and fearless anecdotes (next time you pee on someone, try not to think of Hannah's "ew" face). HBO goes all out with the extras, but the coolest supplement comes to you in 144 characters or less: a journal of Dunham tweets.



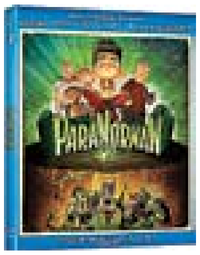
Pitch Perfect

If "Glee" wasn't singing the lowest note of its four-season run, it might at least stand a chance against "Pitch Perfect." But with the zany musical-comedy about an all-girls collegiate a cappella group, the TV show's recent episodes are even more unbearable. Yup, "Pitch Perfect" is so good that it makes "Glee" suck harder. If only Ryan Murphy had a competitive riff-off in a giant pool, more screwball writing, some aca-awesome vernacular, or Rebel Wilson – because no film/TV show should get made without her in it. But even if Wilson, as Fat Amy, crushed every scene she was in with one-liners and mermaid-dance improv, the cast – a myriad of types, including a mousy Asian, a handsy lesbian and a sex fiend – practically made this pitch perfect. The fun doesn't stop there, either: Watch them get even weirder during the Line-O-Rama extras.



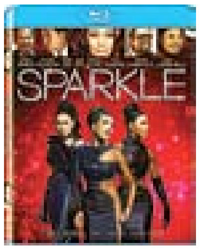
Beasts of the Southern Wild

Just 6 years old and suddenly living in the "Bathtub," Hushpuppy must defy her physical and mental limitations and find the courage, strength and love to face the devastation Hurricane Katrina has left on her ravaged bayou home. Part of that means caring for her ailing father and standing up to the monsters that try to stop her from rising up. First-time director Benh Zeitlin's slice of reality-meets-mythology poeticism is one of the most moving experiences of 2012, buoyed by newcomer Quvenzhané Wallis' Oscar-nominated performance – one of remarkable maturity, fierce vigor and genuine moments of heartbreaking poignancy. She's a little powerhouse, and not just in the movie. That adorable audition tape during the extras shows what a cute firecracker she is.



ParaNorman

How do you make a zombie movie without brains? You don't. So there's that mushy mind stuff in "ParaNorman," but it's not the only organ in this wonderfully animated kind-of-kid adventure-comedy from "Coraline" creators. There's heart, too. In this gooey good time, Norman doesn't just see dead people; he talks to them. Says hi to the hippie ghost on the way to school. But he's also the only person who knows how to break a curse to cease a zombie attack on his town. And his grandma is Elaine Stritch. Oh yeah. Who's cool now? Norman is a fake-life "It Gets Better" story, but he's not the only thing progressive about "ParaNorman": The jock loves boys. Cast members voice their characters during a behind-the-scenes special feature, which also includes a clip explaining how they brought "ParaNorman" to, uh, life.



Sparkle

The remake of this Motown musical about a flashy girl group will be remembered as one thing and one thing only: Whitney Houston's last film before her untimely death. Which is kind of a shame. The great singer's career has seen better days. Houston's tough-love mom role – serving as a cautionary tale to the rising star of her daughter, Sparkle (Jordin Sparks in her screen debut) – has less range than the icon belting one of her classic hits, though she earns those tears running down your face when she puts her heart into "His Eye is on the Sparrow." But not that bittersweet moment – or all the music, drama and infectious charisma of Sparks – can give "Sparkle" the boost it needs to be more than just a very second-rate "Dreamgirls." Remembering the icon on "A Tribute to Whitney Houston," the special features do more justice to her legendary status than the conventionally middling movie itself.

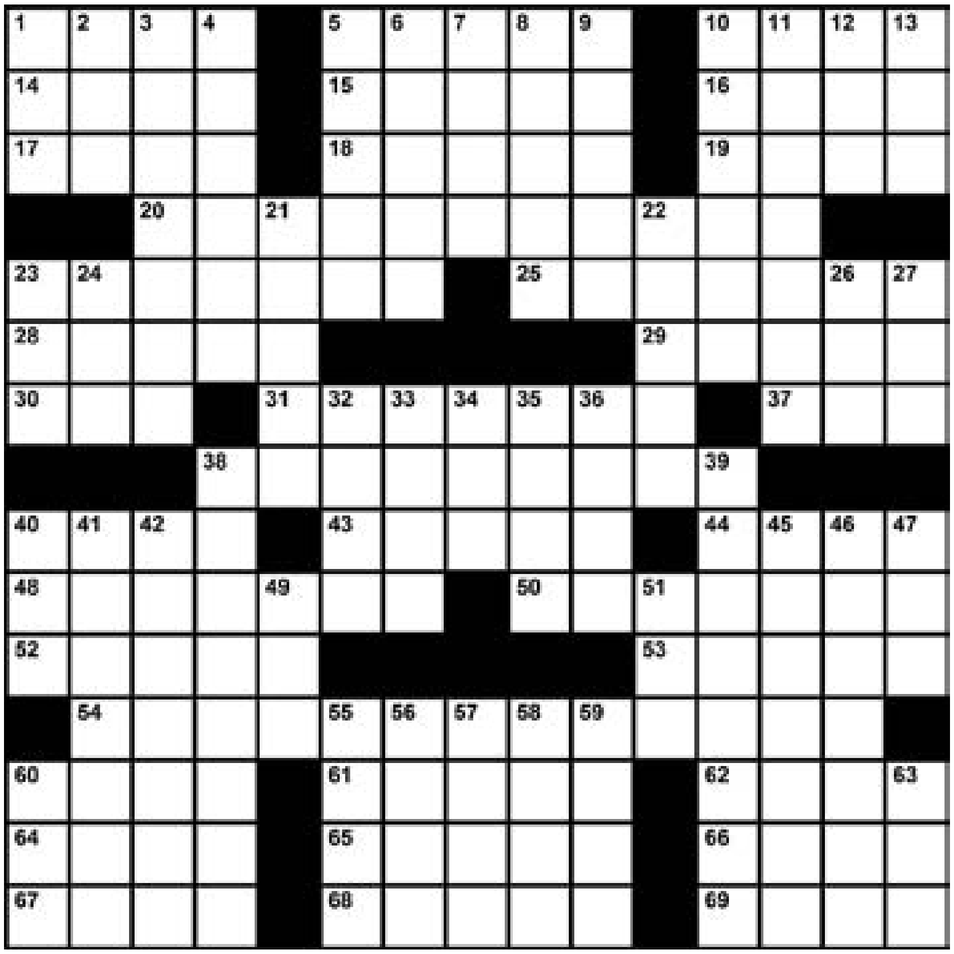


The Dark Knight Rises

Like Heath Ledger in "The Dark Knight," the (probably not) final installment in Christopher Nolan's dark and political Batman trilogy got its standout star: Anne Hathaway as Catwoman. Destroying any doubt that "Mia Thermopolis" couldn't handle the part that Michele Pfeiffer made iconic, Hathaway reinvented the sneaky jewelry thief as a purr-fect version of the sexy comic-book legend. And she's not the only one rocking her role: Michael Caine is still a scene-stealer, Tom Hardy is relentlessly nasty and Christian Bale's Batman is our Obama. Plus, it's got Joseph Gordon-Levitt. Nolan's astonishing "last" chapter feels conclusive enough to close the saga, but who knows: Its epic ending hints that, maybe, The Dark Knight will rise again. Over three hours of bonus features are included in the combo's standalone disc. They're all worth a look, but no more than the nerd guide to the Batmobile.



Coming Out, Of Sorts



Across

1 Ron Howard film with Ellen DeGeneres
5 Pie fight sound
10 Little fairies
14 Petty of "A League of Their Own"
15 Taking it lying down
16 He cruised for forty days straight
17 Electronic synthesizer
18 Roundup rope
19 Two tablets, maybe
20 Golden Globes honoree
23 Pirates
25 Lesbians in training, e.g.
28 Kofi of the UN
29 "C'est Moi," to King Arthur
30 Hosp. honchos
31 More like a metrosexual
37 Pink, for example
38 "Coming out" statement by 20-Across
40 Baldwin's "The ___ Corner"
43 Fruit in "There Is Nothing Like a Dame"
44 What Sam twitched on "Bewitched"
48 Knot type
50 In general
52 Pears, to Britten
53 Stop on the road
54 With 68-Across, honor won by 20-Across
60 Brazilian soccer great
61 Shelley Duvall role in "Popeye"
62 Puckered pair
64 At once, to queens of old
65 Carpenter's tool
66 Villain's work
67 Cried a river
68 See 54-Across
69 Say "She's just a friend" to a jealous lover, e.g.

Down

1 It spreads its limbs
2 Toon canine Scooby-___
3 Protection for tight ends at Southern Cal?
4 Abe of "Barney Miller"
5 Shoot, off a larger branch
6 Sticks one's nose into things
7 Shaped meat dish
8 Playwright Chekhov
9 Give a hard time to
10 Behind with the bucks
11 Like Shakespeare's Othello
12 Swan Lake step
13 Cho's "Pink as the Day ___ Was Born"
21 Journalist Minkowitz
22 Work the baton
23 America's Uncle
24 Drop the curtain on
26 Meat source Down Under
27 Cole Porter's "___ America First"
32 BB's, e.g.
33 Peter I, for one
34 Sardine container
35 "Cunt" author Muscio
36 The I's have 'em
38 Still changing, perhaps
39 On the roster
40 Punching tool
41 Geological epoch when mastodons appeared
42 Completely surround
45 Emulate "I Will Survive" singer Gaynor?
46 Catch some extra Z's
47 Phallic fish
49 Lanka head
51 Mate in Montreal
55 Marlene's role in "Blue Angel"
56 Pleasured orally
57 Opera figure
58 At any point
59 Longtime lesbian couples often do this
60 Fondle clumsily
63 Crazy like a fox

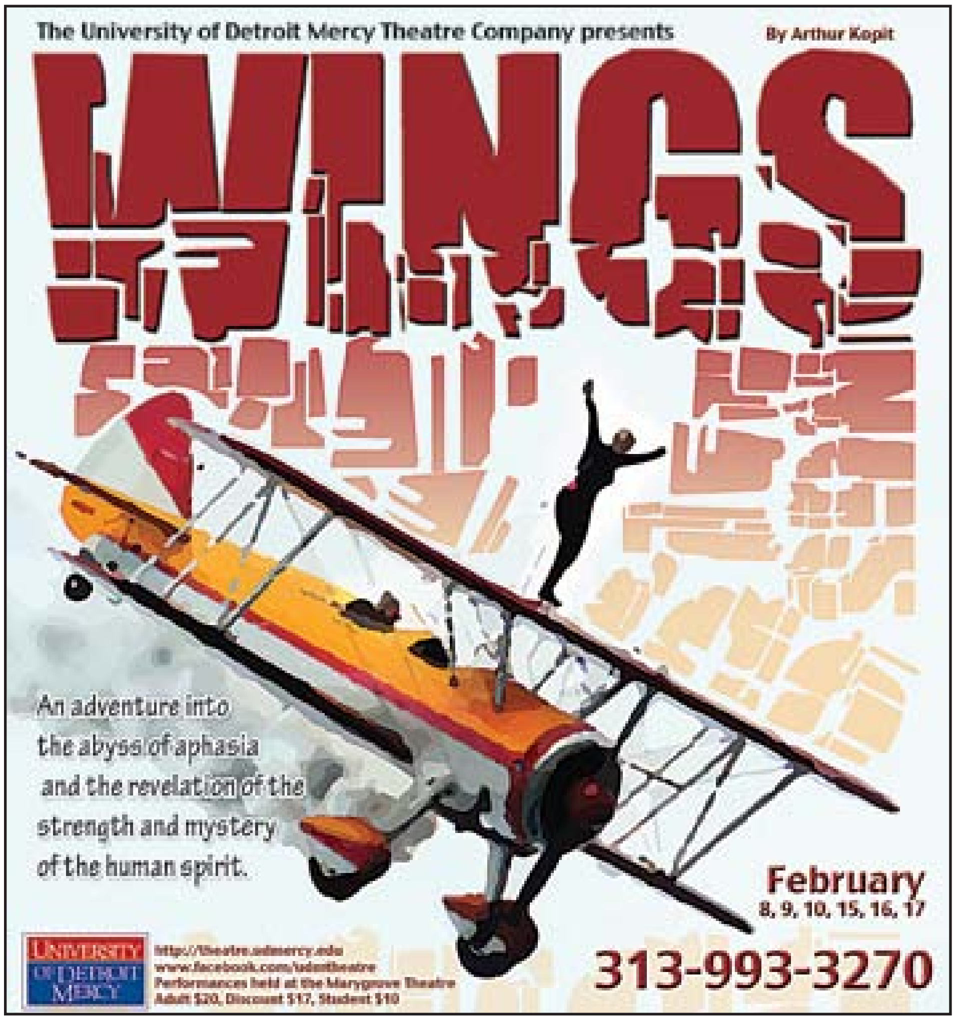
Solution on pg. 29



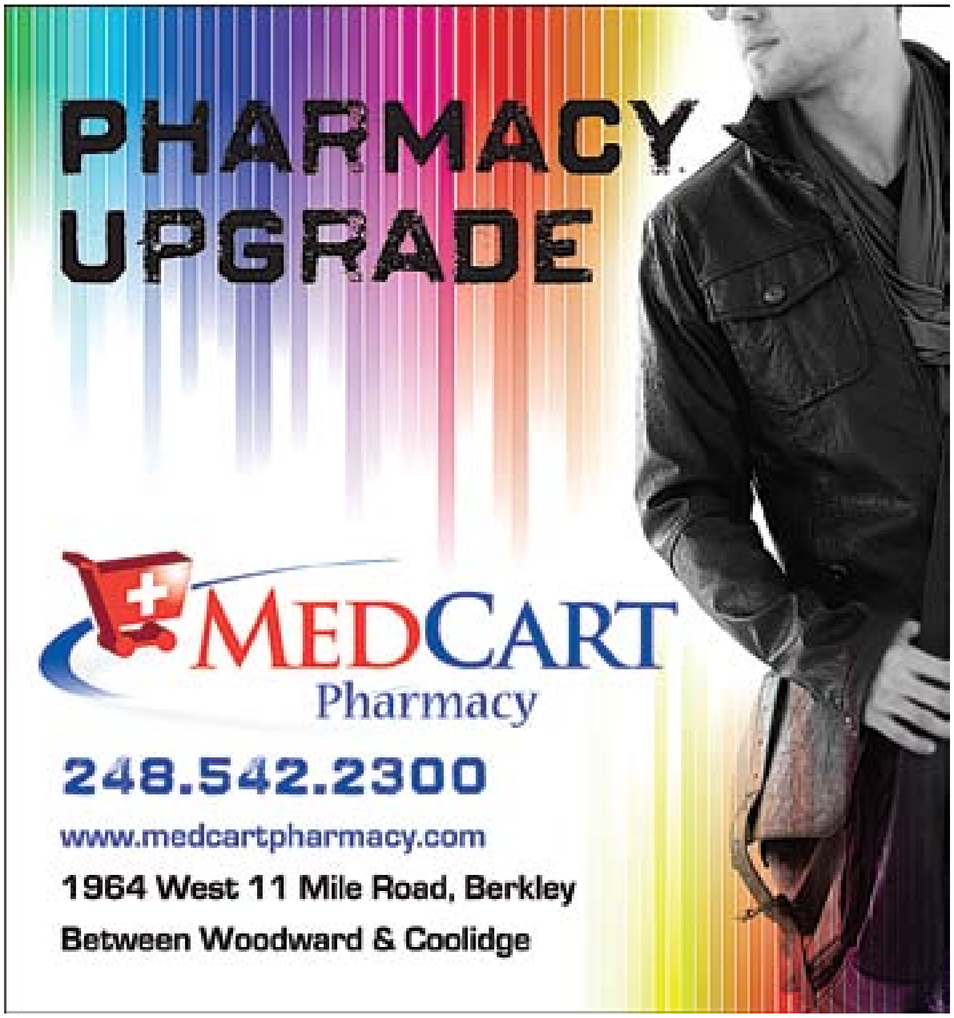
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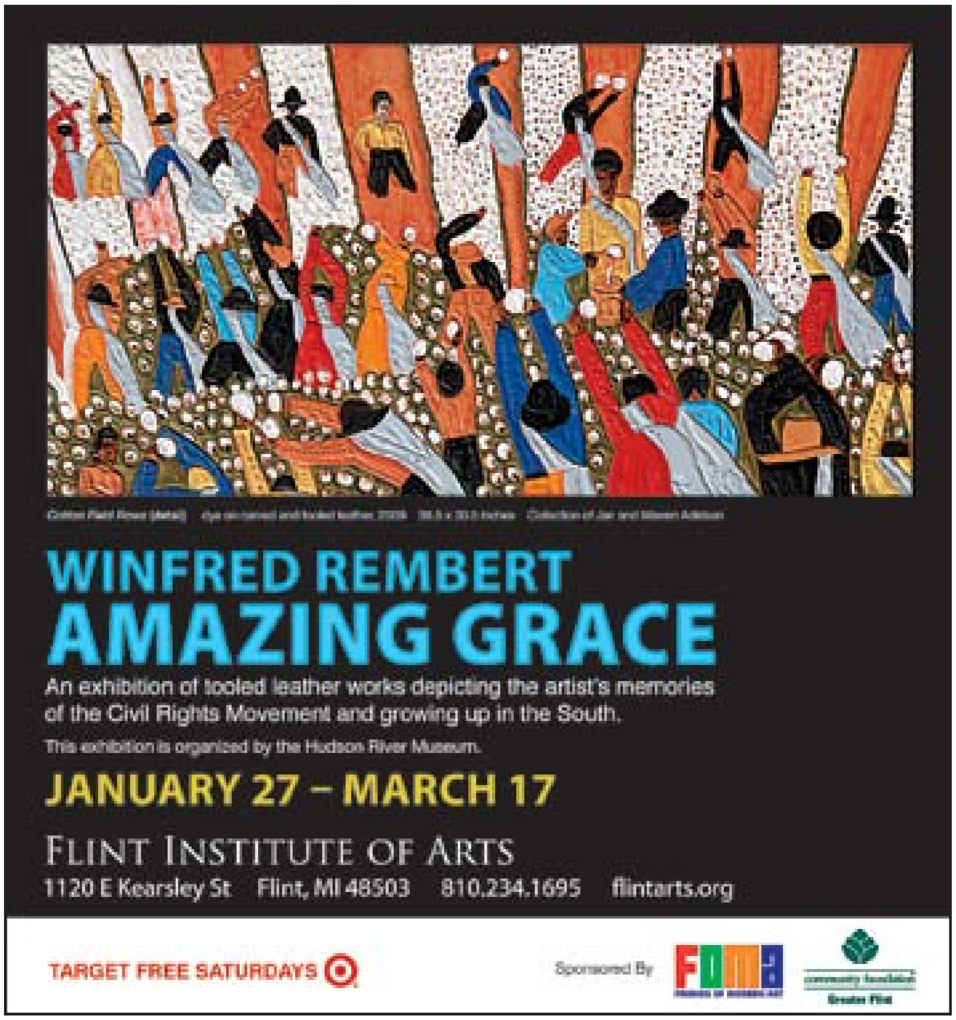
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